

**Community News**

**Kenneth D. Colen**  
Publisher

**2020 Recap**

Warning! I'm about to be a total buzzkill. Stop now or get your favorite beverage if you wish to continue. Many of us may be happy to bid 2020 farewell. Between a tumultuous election season and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2020, it's been a long haul. Thinking about the friends or family who've suffered through the bug, and the one's we've lost, it begs a sobering reflection.

Most likely, we are still in for social gathering restrictions and masking well into 2021. It's something we must live with until the pandemic threat subsides. If the Pandemic of 1918 is any guide, the flu continued for many years at ever decreasing levels as the virus mutated toward less virulence, and the populace gained increasing resistance. This current bug seems very prone to not mutate to any degree, so we may be left with increasing immunity born by surviving exposure or vaccination.

I mention this not to be morose, but to look squarely at the challenges and hurdles the On Top of the World family of communities have ahead to return to a new degree of normalcy (and other communities as well).

Maintenance and operations staff have done a great job keeping up the facilities, cleaning and disinfecting them, and generally maintaining the operational readiness for the benefit of residents of each community. There is a price to this both in added labor and supply resources, but also the intangible cost to each resident for reduced capacity brought about by the need to distance and mask.

This is our new normal. The takeaway is that we all stay healthy, be caring and respectful of our neighbors, and live on to enjoy all we have.

**Association Meetings**

December 2020 was when Associations held their annual meeting. Those who attended heard board reports, asked questions, and if the Association is on a calendar year (such as Circle Square Ranch Master, Indigo East and Candler Hills), adoption of the Association's budget for calendar year 2021 occurred.

Although the meetings were held in person, a significant number of people opted to participate online through WebCast. On that note, I want to thank Jim Shook of Master the Possibilities for setting that up for all the Associations. It went off without so much as a glitch. Thanks, Jim!

The Master Association meeting was very sparsely attended, as it usually is. We had one person attending remotely. While the budget did grow, it reflects only the addition of new residences within the Master Association Service area. The budget for the Master Association was held flat with no fee increase whatsoever.

The Indigo East Neighborhood Association was well attended and distanced with approximately 60 people in person, and another 82 attending through WebCast. Kristin Demers, budget analyst, gave a walk-through of the budget, inputs and costs. The majority of the questions revolved around the increased cost for garbage and debris removal. It was explained that the final budget presented for adoption had been revised to reflect a lower cost of service, as negotiation with the vendors continued to the last possible moment before the meeting. Other questions dealt with speeding control in the neighborhood. It was pointed out that the Marion County Sheriff's Office does

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Photo by Cammy Dennis

Native Plant Group members (left to right) at the Longleaf Pine Trail Melanie Vittitow, Yvonne Beckman, Margitta Claterbos, and Bill Shampine.

**Wellness in Your World**

By Cammy Dennis

A new year, a new perspective, a new opportunity to welcome wellness. That is why the fitness team has come up with a 'Wellness Around the World' challenge. We are excited to kick off 2021 with a program that challenges the body, feeds the mind and soothes the soul.

The idea behind this challenge is to encourage residents to engage in the many dimensions of wellness available right here at On Top of the World. All you have to do is pick up a 'Wellness Passport' and begin your adventure! Passports for this challenge are available at the Recreation Fitness Center and the Arbor Fitness Center; the challenge will begin Feb. 1 and run for the entire month. Detailed instructions for the 'Wellness Around the World' program will accompany the passport.

One of the destinations on the wellness passport is the Longleaf Pine Trail. I had the opportunity to visit the trail recently and meet with the Native Plant Group. This enthusiastic group, led by Margitta Claterbos, meets monthly to tend to this beautiful trail. They take great care to weed, clean, and ensure that the native plants are thriving. When it comes to wellness, the Longleaf Pine Trail is the perfect way to celebrate physical, environmental, and emotional health.

Margitta spent a good part of late 2001 generating plans for the

Longleaf Pine Trail. This included meetings with the management of On Top of the World. The trail officially opened in 2002. The trailhead is clearly marked and is located adjacent to the Arbor Conference Center.

Margitta notes, "We wanted residents and guests to explore and enjoy the original sandhill habitat." This half-mile trail provides a space where people can get away from the stress of life and commune with nature. Bill Shampine, Native Plant Group member, says, "It's so important to get away from the running around of everyday life, to listen to the birds, and see the beautiful native plants."

I had a wonderful outing with the Native Plant Group, and was given a personal tour of the many delights this trail has to offer. Yvonne Beckman, a three-year Native Plant Group member, shared that "the time I spend volunteering on the trail is so good for my mental health. Native Florida plants are so beautiful and are great for our environment because they require less water." I agree with Yvonne, spending time outdoors in a natural environment does wonders for emotional well-being.

There is a great deal of scientific evidence demonstrating that the "feel-good" chemicals in your brain are boosted when you are exposed to natural light and green spaces. These are the same mood-boosting

neurochemicals that we get from exercise. A walk along the Longleaf Pine Trail provides a two-for-one special! You get the benefit of both physical and environmental wellness.

As I was chatting with Melanie Vittitow, who moved to On Top of the World in 2006, she informed me that she became interested in the Native Plant Group after meeting Margitta in a yoga class. She has been a part of the group ever since and notes, "I love working with plants, and volunteering on the trail gives me exposure to a wide variety of native species, they are very different from the plants I have in my own yard."

The Native Plant Group also spends time tending to the plants at the traffic circle in Friendship, located at SW 94th Street and 89th Court Road. This dedicated and lively group meets monthly to care for the beautiful, native plants. What a wonderful gift to give the On Top of the World Communities. The Native Plant Group welcomes new members, and would be happy to share more information with you. If you are interested, please contact Margitta Claterbos at mclaterbos@gmail.com.

The Longleaf Pine Trail is one destination of many on the 'Wellness Around the World' adventure! We are thrilled to highlight this beautiful trail, along with the other vast opportunities to engage your body, mind and soul. Stop by the Recreation Fitness Center or the Arbor Fitness Center to pick up your passport now. For more information on the 'Wellness Around the World' challenge please call 352-854-8707 ext. 7532.

**Chef Ralph Cipollo Brings Culinary Flair**

By Jordan Litherland

With over 21 years of culinary experience, the new special events chef to On Top of the World Communities, Ralph Cipollo, brings expertise and cultural craft to every plate.

Cipollo's culinary practice has taken him all over the region, holding senior positions with Boca Raton Resort and Club, the Longboat Key Club, and the Ritz Carlton in St. Thomas. Chef Cipollo also has experience with the most prestigious golf tournaments, including working at TPC Sawgrass and Augusta National, home of the Masters golf tournament. Chef Cipollo has taken his travel and life's endeavors and brings it to his cooking stating, "I've always loved to bring the full experience of all the flavors from destinations and cultures I have

had the privilege to work for. From New England to the Caribbean, it's all about keeping it simple, yet refined."

Chef Cipollo joins On Top of the World after his successful career at Trilogy, where he led the Salted Brick, the restaurant won various Open Table awards and notably winning the 2020 Diners' Choice for "Best Overall."

With a portfolio filled with accolades and delivered results, On Top of the World is thrilled to have Chef Ralph Cipollo and set a new era for a redefined dining experience in our community. "I am excited to join the On Top of the World team," starts Chef Cipollo. "Through shared inspiration, my vision is to exceed the community's expecta-

tions and promote On Top of the World as a premier destination for casual dining and also to offer fun, innovative culinary events and gatherings."



Photo courtesy of Colen Built Development, LLC

Special Events Chef Ralph Cipollo.

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**On Top of the World NEWS**

The World News is a monthly publication of On Top of the World Communities in Marion County, Florida. This publication is written and prepared by On Top of the World residents for our neighbors and those interested in becoming a part of our community. The World News strives to publish only "good, informative news." Events and activities that take place behind the gates of On Top of the World are for residents only.

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**2021 PUBLICATION SCHEDULE**

**On Top of the World NEWS**

Issue	Ad/Payment/Column Deadline*	Insert Deadline**	Home Delivery
January	12/11/20	12/24/20	12/31/20
February	01/12/21	01/21/21	01/28/21
March	02/12/21	02/25/21	03/04/21
April	03/12/21	03/25/21	04/01/21
May	04/12/21	04/22/21	04/29/21
June	05/12/21	05/20/21	05/27/21
July	06/14/21	06/24/21	07/01/21
August	07/12/21	07/22/21	07/29/21
September	08/12/21	08/26/21	09/02/21
October	09/13/21	09/23/21	09/30/21
November	10/12/21	10/21/21	10/28/21
December	11/12/21	11/24/21	12/02/21
January '22	12/13/21	12/23/21	12/30/21

\* Deadline at noon

\*\* Printed inserts deadline by 3:30 p.m. at Heart of Florida

**GOLDEN OLDIES HUMOR**

By Stan Goldstein



If you can't find the book you want - write it.

**Is It Legal?**

**Gerald Colen & Rachel Wagoner**  
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We have to deal with various scams and frauds every single day. It's frustrating even though we all are aware of what's "out there." Scams come from all different sources and formats - emails, social media, robocalls, IRS calls, Social Security Administration calls, etc. We also have to worry about our children and grandchildren's use of social media. I mean, how do we know that when we get an email from, say a child or grandchild or niece or nephew, that he or she hasn't got a computer vi-

rus that winds up snaring us? It's never-ending. My ideas are no better nor worse than yours might be, but here are my thoughts on how to keep ourselves as safe as we can.

Do make sure your computer, iPad, iPhone, or other system has an up-to-date anti-virus program. Always download any updates from the company - not from anyone else. If you are not sure, do not download until you have someone you trust check it out.

Do not answer your phone, be it a landline or cellphone, unless you are positive that you recognize the caller.

Do not call back a phone number if you get a call and then there's no voicemail message. Do not even think about returning that type of call. If someone has an im-

portant voice message, you can listen to it and decide if you want to call back.

Do remember that the IRS, the Social Security Administration, the United States Marshal's office will never call you and demand money, credit card info, iTunes card, etc.

Look, I can go on and on about this and I know that you who are reading this already know about everything I've just discussed. However, there are plenty of folks who are vulnerable, and I need you to keep watch on them as best as you can. Talk about this with friends and neighbors. Check out the websites for the FBI ([fbi.gov](http://fbi.gov)), Federal Trade Commission, ([ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov)), your bank's website, etc. Add this to any of the other projects you already have. The only tool we have is to protect our friends and neighbors because if we do that, we are also protecting ourselves.

Am I preaching? Yes. You see, here at our law firm we have seen too much agony from lost funds. Be careful. Be safe.

Now, for something "lighter." One of our clients loaned money to a grandson so he could buy a car. My client really could not afford to loan the money but, well, how could she say "no" to her grandson? Of course, the grandson had several excuses why he could not repay the loan and then finally said he was not going to repay it and anyway, the loan was a gift.

Of course, it wasn't a gift. Well, this is bad, but it could have been worse because my client could have guaranteed a promissory note and even worse than that could have had her name added to the car title. So, now, although she might lose the money she paid out, at least she will not be obligated on a promissory note and will not have to worry about liability if the grandson has an accident with the car.

What can she do now? Well, she can always try to sue her grandson.

The problem there is the only proof she has of the loan is her check to her grandson. Also, her grandson does not reside in Florida. Filing a lawsuit in another state, and with no actual loan documentation other than the check, can be a losing situation.

So, what is to be done? Maybe, all of us should remember that when our children or grandchildren ask us for a loan, we should ask ourselves if we can afford to lose all the money if the child cannot or will not repay it. If you can afford to lose the funds, then that's one thing. If you cannot afford to lose it, maybe you need to learn Jerry Colen's favorite word: "no." Try saying it. You'll like it!

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# Crows – Unwelcome Visitors

By Ray Cech  
World News Writer

Edgar Allen Poe is woken from his nap by a tapping on his chamber door.

We are often woken from our nap, not by a tapping, but more like a screeching, or a “caw.”

On Top of the World is surrounded by wildlife of many species, and perhaps the most prolific, and bothersome, may be that very close relative of the raven – the crow. They screech, squabble, dive-bomb, and often finish off the food in the birdfeeder, and the water in the birdbath. They are also, most likely, the most maligned of all birds.

What first brought our attention to crows was one day when my wife and I were sitting on the couch reading the newspaper, we heard, what we thought was a knocking on the front door. I got up and opened it – no one.

Again, we heard the same sound, but this time we both went to look out the back window. There on the windowsill was a large crow tapping on the window – his beak filled with something that we couldn’t identify. When we moved closer to the window, he flew over to the birdbath. We then watched him drop in the water, what we realized was popcorn that we had accidentally left on the patio table, earlier that day.

As we continued to watch him down the soggy kernels we puzzled about this crow: where did he come from, how old was he, (she?), and laughingly, did he prefer Orville

Redenbacher’s or maybe, Publix, lightly salted popcorn?

We went to the internet and typed in crows. It was all pretty interesting. So, in the spirit of sharing, here is a crow biography.

First, know that a gathering of crows is not a flock – it is a murder of crows. (There are many myths and theories as to why, “murder.”) They often live up to 14 years and mate for life – no seven-year itch for them.

Studies tell us that crows are extremely intelligent. They never forget a face and have been known to carve out tools. Zoologists often refer to them as “feathered-apes,” and they actually have different dialects depending on what group they belong to and in what part of the country. (Just imagine a Brooklyn crow attempting to understand a Boston crow, and vice versa.)

We also discovered that a newborn crow will often stay with mom and dad for up to five years and will actually help guard the nest with the arrival of new siblings. When fully grown they can weigh up to one and a half pounds. A crow will lay four or five eggs that will incubate in 18 days. The chicks will begin to test their acrobatic skills in about four weeks. Of the estimated 27 million crows in North America, about 37% will migrate to Canada and back.

And yes, crows will eat just about anything. So if you don’t want to be woken by their caw and screeching, leave nothing outside that remotely resembles food – even popcorn.



Photo by Ray Cech

Backyard view.



**2ND ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021

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## Community News

Kenneth D. Colen  
Publisher

## ► Continued from Page 1

patrol and in the last few months issued approximately 30 citations and tickets for traffic infractions, predominantly to residents.

The Candler Hills Neighborhood Association was well attended and distanced with approximately 80 people in person, and another 191 attending through WebCast. Kristin Demers, budget analyst, gave a walk-through of the budget, inputs and costs. The majority of the questions revolved around the increased cost for garbage and debris removal. It was explained that the final budget presented for adoption had been revised to reflect a lower cost of service, as negotiation with the vendors continued to the last possible moment before the meeting. Other questions dealt with the reasoning behind an expansion of the Candler Hills Neighborhood Association to include a new phase with an additional 1,200 homes. Phase 1 is under construction and will encompass 321 home sites. The home product will be essentially the same as currently being offered. The communities will be linked through an additional gated entrance on SW 92nd Court Road (new road), as well as an under-road golf cart tunnel proposed for Phase 2 of the expansion.

The Terralea expansion of Candler Hills will have additional amenities, including multi-modal hard surface pathways and a walking trail system. Amenities won't be built until Phase 2. The expanded communities are planned to share

amenities. The question was asked if the expansion of homes would "overburden the existing recreational amenities." This was considered in the planning and is why additional amenities will be added. At this point, those additional amenities are conceptual and nothing concrete has been designed. The developer will gauge the facility need and design appropriately.

The final meeting was the On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association. There were approximately 110 attendees in person and another 551 online. The board reports focused on operational aspects of the community, as well as a developer's report on new neighborhood expansion. This year's meeting was a board election; I'm happy to report that the current board members have been re-elected to serve another two years.

After the meeting, several people asked me about the budget and what to expect for next year. Perhaps I should have been more specific about the purpose of the annual meeting at the start: It is not to discuss the budget forecasts, but to hold an election, render reports, and answer operational questions. On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association is on a fiscal year basis, budget adoption will take place at a board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 17. More details regarding this meeting, together with a proposed budget, will be mailed to owners in January.

The proposed budget will give the outlook for fiscal 2021-2022. It is still too early to predict the budget at this point. Your board is still collecting pricing on services such as insurance and roofing work. If the budget cycle plays out like it has in other years, a proposed budget is drafted and sent out to

residents by the statutory deadline for mailing, but changes may occur as the budget is negotiated up to the day of final acceptance by the board.

The question was asked if it was possible for residents currently served by Spectrum to get a bulk service program through the Association. This is something that was started in early 2020, however when COVID-19 became so problematic, the topic of a bulk service arrangement with Spectrum was shelved. Staff has recently reached out to Spectrum to revive discussions on this topic.

**Reality Check**

One of the COVID-19 realities is in regard to eating establishments, especially new buildings. As noted in previous columns, this is why The Pub expansion is canceled. In the space near the Recreation Center pool, a covered pavilion and related amenities is planned. The project is designed and is in permitting with the County at present.

As the pavilion project is progressing, 11 new pickleball courts will proceed. Additionally, new covered dugouts with lockable storage are being added at the softball field. The program to add tennis courts is still on hold until late in 2021 to 2022.

Avalon 7 is winding down with under 24 lots left. Land development and sales is continuing development work in Long Leaf and the final phase of Crescent Ridge 4.

Another new phase in Weybourne Landing has been permitted and is beginning development. This is the phase that will house the recreation amenity. It is beginning with the pool and cabana and will later proceed to the addition of a 16,000 square foot amenity building. Homes sales of the Classic Series has been brisk.

**Personal Insurance on Your Home & Contents**

Fire events or water damage are cautionary reminders for each resident to check in with your insurance agent and make sure the insurance coverage on your unit and contents is adequate. If you feel "lucky" and go without insurance, or believe you can self-insure any loss, please reconsider. The cost of repair or reconstruction, as well as loss of use (being displaced pending restoration), may well exceed

the purchase price of your home many times over. It is the obligation of every owner to insure the contents of their dwelling, including loss of use coverage. Loss of use coverage will cover expenses for living and lodging should you become displaced. Displacement after a fire may be between six and 18 months!

This is a good point to segue into the limits of coverage that individual dwelling owners may wish to have. Contents coverage may vary greatly depending on what you own. As a basic point though, you need adequate limits to cover furnishings, personal items, floor coverings, appliances, and cabinetry. All carriers write an HO6 rider that provides for loss assessment coverage in the event of a special assessment from the Association to cover unforeseen shortfalls or losses.

In the On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association, buildings are insured under a master policy in the name of the Association. The deductible is \$10,000 for any casualty event per occurrence including wind/hail related damage. Named storm events carry a separate deductible of 3% of the total value at the time of loss, at each location involved in the loss, subject to a minimum (community wide) deductible of \$250,000 for any one occurrence. With respect to flood (rising water), earthquake, and flood resulting from a named storm, all loss, damage, and/or expense arising out of any one occurrence shall be adjusted as one loss, and from an amount of each such adjusted loss there is a 5% of location total insured value subject to a \$250,000 deductible per occurrence. For more information, please visit [www.otowinfo.com](http://www.otowinfo.com) then click "Associations" then "OTOW Central" then locate Insurance Requirements and Forms and download the PDF document entitled "Insurance Responsibility of the Individual Homeowner."

Residents of Candler Hills, Indigo East, and Weybourne Landing may be seeing higher homeowner insurance rates. This is a state-wide phenomenon driven largely by insurance fraud. The latest flavor of which is storm related roof damage.

The scam works like this: A homeowner is contacted by a roofing company offering a "free" roof replacement. They are then offered an "authorization form" to sign. That form is in actuality an engagement letter with an attorney. Once the replacement work is completed, the law firm sues the homeowner's insurance company for inflated costs. This has become such a widespread practice, that the cost is being returned to homeowners in the form of higher premiums.

A postscript to this is that the law firm with the most cases is being sued by the state attorney's office for insurance fraud. Little comfort at this point.

Besides casualty insurance, other steps to protecting your home are testing your smoke detector regularly and having an operable BC fire extinguisher at easy reach. Read the extinguisher operating instructions when you first purchase the unit and at least twice a year thereafter is also recommended. In this recent event, a homeowner having and using an operable fire extinguisher may have greatly limited the damage.

**GOING OUT OF TOWN?**

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**Bay Laurel Center**  
CDD**IRREGULAR WATER USAGE\***

- **Toilets:** A failing flapper (valve seal) can waste up to 200 gallons of water a day.
- **Leaky Faucets/Showerheads:** Dripping can range from several gallons to hundreds of gallons of water per day.
- **Water Hose:** When left on with leaks at the spigot or nozzle.
- **Irrigation System:** Automatic irrigation solenoid valves not closing properly or excessive run times including multiple program cycles.
- **Water Softeners:** Excessively backwashing or the backwash valve failing.

\*Water loss is estimated and varies depending on severity of leak.

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**All Around Our World**

**Lynette Vermillion**  
(352) 236-OTOW (6869)  
generalmanager@otowfl.com

Happy new year! We hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday! We wish you a joyous 2021, filled with hope for a better year, success and good health. I am optimistic that 2021 is a year of recovery, harmony and freedom.

**HOA Meetings**

The annual meetings for the Indigo East and Candler Hills Neighborhood Associations were Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 and the On Top of the World (Central) Owners Association was Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020. Items discussed included board reports and annual budgets for Indigo East and Candler Hills.

**Gateway of Services**

Indigo East and Weybourne Landing are unique communities in that they may choose to purchase a Gateway of Services pass. For those residents wishing to enjoy the amenities behind the gates at On Top of the World, a Gateway of Services pass is necessary. We offer several payment options when you sign up: monthly automatic debit from your checking, savings or credit card; one-time check or credit card payment; or quarterly payments with a quarterly processing fee. If you would like more information regarding Gateway of Services or if you would like to sign up, please contact Resident Services for an appointment.

**Resident Services**

Please note that Resident Services will be closed Friday, Jan 1 (New Year's Day).

Resident Services is open from

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the following restrictions:

- Closed daily, from noon to 12:30 p.m., for sanitizing.
- Closed the third Wednesday of every month (Jan. 20), from noon to 1 p.m.
- Lobby is limited to six residents at a time.
- Social distancing of six feet and face masks are required.

Residents needing to utilize Resident Services at Friendship Commons may continue to contact the office by phone, (352) 236-OTOW (6869), or email us at otowservice@otowfl.com in lieu of visiting. We are experiencing higher than normal volumes and appreciate your patience. Be assured, your call or email will be returned as soon as possible. As a reminder, Resident Services is now located in Friendship Commons, Suite 500, and new resident orientations are by appointment only in Suite 200.

**Getting Ready for the Cold**

Winter is here and cold temperatures can have an effect on your backflow preventer. For those residents who maintain their own backflow preventer, do you know how to winterize it? If not, please check the "Homeowner Maintenance" tab under "Resources" on www.otowinfo.com to read more details about how to winterize your backflow preventer and protect it from freezing temperatures.

**Holiday Lighting and Decorations**

Please be sure that all decorations are placed out of the way of the lawn crews for mowing purposes. We also remind you that all holiday decorations are to be removed by Friday, Jan. 16. Live Christmas trees may be placed on the curb in front of your home for pick-up on

your community's regularly scheduled yard debris pick-up day.

**Rule of the Month**

We regularly hear from residents about vehicles being parked in the street overnight, and vehicles blocking the view to safely travel the streets. Please take care

when you or your guests park on the street and take note of neighbors' driveways to prevent someone backing into your car and to be considerate of your neighbors. Vehicles - No vehicles may be parked on the street overnight without the prior consent of the Association.



**Lifelong Learning**

**Michelle Shideler**  
(352) 387-7571  
michelle\_shideler@masterthepossibilities.org

2021 has only just begun and I am already extremely excited about all the possibilities this new year brings to Master the Possibilities. We are focused on "Learning Without Limits" this first half of the year and cannot wait to share all the learning opportunities with our students. In saying that, I want to preface this column with the fact there are so many learning moments being offered through at the Education Center, they cannot all be mentioned here. I would highly recommend a visit to our website for a complete list of all our educational opportunities. Here are a few of our upcoming special presentations.

Visiting Master the Possibilities Friday, Jan. 15 is retired senior intelligence officer Robert (Bob) Wallace, who served in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for many years. During his tenure, he was appointed deputy director for the CIA's Office to Technical Service and later officer director. He oversaw the top scientists who were involved with many top-secret inventions.

He will be speaking to an audience at Circle Square Cultural Center about "Q" Lives: Spy Gadgets for Every Season." For the inquisitive ones who have watched spy movies and wondered if those devices were real, or how they worked, this

is the event to attend. Meet a real-life agent Q, like portrayed in the 007 movies and hear how things actually worked in the CIA with top-secret devices and learn how spies were able to use those devices in the field. Cost to attend this event from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Those who attend the "Holocaust Survivor" presentation from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, will be part of a memorial ceremony that will honor victims and survivors of the Holocaust. Ericka Yeger will begin her speaking engagement with a remembrance and include members of the community to help present a series of stories and poems and light candles for the event. Afterwards, her presentation will include the history of her mother's life before, during and after the Holocaust. Ericka's hope is this presentation will give all participants a better understanding of the Holocaust through her mother's experiences. Cost to attend this event at Circle Square Cultural Center is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

Our educational facility was chosen to be the premiere screening location for the unveiling of the award-winning film, "Born to Rein," Monday, Feb. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Circle Square Cultural Center. This showing captures John Nerud's Nebraska upbringing and his many life's experiences all the way to his remarkable thoroughbred horse racing and breeding industry at Tartan Farm right here in Ocala. The film features

Mr. Nerud's life on a family ranch, then to rodeo cowboy to renowned trainer, breeder, and co-founder of the Breeders' Cup. Participants will have a chance to ask questions of the filmmakers Melody Dobson and Jody Lamp, who will be attending virtually, after the showing. There is no charge to attend this event, but registration is required, and attendance is limited. Master the Possibilities would like to thank the Nafzger Family Foundation for their support of this program.

There are truly more than 200 course offerings this month at Master the Possibilities. Check out our website for a complete calendar list of upcoming events. Then, register online 24/7 at MasterthePossibilities.org, or call our main office from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (352) 861-9751 to register with staff assistance.

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# Woodworker

By Susan Yenne  
World News Writer

When Joe Loviska retired 10 years ago, he needed a hobby and turned to woodworking.

When he moved to On Top of the World more than three years ago, he needed a 24-foot truck to move his shop into the golf cart garage at his new home in Stonebridge.

Joe and Connie Loviska, together since age 16 at Henry Ford High School in Detroit, came from Marietta, Georgia, where he was a project manager overseeing the building of White Water amusement parks and she was a residential builder. At one point, they worked every Saturday for 10 years as volunteer project managers for Habitat for Humanity, twice working on projects with former President Jimmy Carter.

Nowadays, he builds the things that go in homes such as furniture and toys. His grandchildren have received everything from bunk beds and 85-pound rocking horses to toy trains, trucks and automobiles.

This year, he made Christmas ornaments for the dozens of friends they've made in our community: mini kayaks for their kayaking group, mini golf bags with clubs for their golf buddies, and mini pick-

leball paddles for those they play with.

"The answer to doing great woodworking is having the right tools," he said. He still uses his father's 1949 drill press and band-saw, both with original motors.

When it comes to furniture, he looks at various styles and creates his own patterns. Most of the furniture in his house had been mortise-and-tenon - no nails. His two wooden full-size kayaks and most of his toys come from patterns he buys or downloads.

"I can duplicate most anything I see," he said.

Connie's favorite toy made by Joe is a fire engine with a rotating extension ladder. One of his toughest and longest builds was a circus train complete with a steam engine and caged animals. Many of his golf friends have a foot-long golf cart with cup holders, a detailed steering wheel and two bags on the back. "I even put in left-handed clubs for the left-handers," he said.

Most of the wood he uses was brought down from Georgia - or donated scraps from friends. Everything he makes during the 20 to 25 hours a week he spends in his shop is a giveaway. "It would be too hard to put a price on."



Photo by Susan Yenne



Photo by Susan Yenne

Cars created by Joe Loviska.

Joe Loviska in his woodworking shop.

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**Williamsburg Neighbors**

**Ginny Nardone**

Happy new year to all! There is no doubt we all welcome 2021 with enthusiasm and hope. Everyone wants something different to focus on, and Williamsburg resident, Jill Carel is offering us just that with a laughter yoga gathering. On Saturday, Jan. 16, at 2 p.m., Jill will help

us greet the new year with laughter on our lips! Jill is certified as a laughter leader through the World Laughter Tour and has taught laughter yoga at Master the Possibilities. Jill is offering this session as a new year's gift to our neighborhood. While we are sitting or standing, Jill will lead participants in gentle, good-hearted imaginings and laughter exercises. Try something new and fun in 2021! Join us at the Williamsburg social lot Jan. 16 for this unique and fun experience.

As many of you know we used November and December 2020 to reinvent the neighborhood social scene. At our first community Zoom gathering in November, someone mentioned laughter yoga, a discussion followed and voila, our January social was born!

Another first took place Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020, when residents participated in our neighborhood golf cart scavenger hunt. The weather was perfect for an outdoor activity as teams gathered to receive the hunt list and rules from

coordinator, Dave Hawkins. Teams returned at a designated time, entries were evaluated by a panel of judges, and prizes were awarded. Everyone enjoyed a morning of fun searching for interesting items and socializing with our neighbors.

If you are new to Williamsburg and have not had your information added to the email contact list, or if your previous entry needs to be updated, please call Ginny Nardone at (352) 304-8619 or Cathy Higginbotham at (352) 509-4266.



Photo by Jerry Nardone

Scavenger hunt winners Tim, Stacy Casey and Sami, Kathy and Steve Becker, Dee and Gary Null.



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**Finding Zen**



**Christina Shearer**  
info@sholompark.org

The busy holiday season has come to an end. The new year is here and 2020 is a thing of the past. Now what do you do?

Sholom Park is offering many ways to help you beat the post-holiday blues and start the new year off with a fresh new view. Take a peaceful, meditative walk around the park and clear the clutter of 2020 to prepare the way for brighter days to come in 2021. Pick up the pace for a brisk walk to help

lose the extra pounds you may have found during the holidays. Indulge in a book while you soak up some midday sunshine, a natural form of vitamin D, to help strengthen your immune system and boost your mood.

Sholom Park is also hosting a variety of events to add to your social calendar this month. If you need a little help jumpstarting your resolutions to get fit, join On Top of the World's fitness director Cammy Dennis for our educational L.E.A.F. Series "Moving into Wellness, Fit for the New Year!" Friday, Jan. 15, at 10:30 a.m. Learn how to grow older, bolder, and better.

Do you enjoy live music, singing, or roasted marshmallows? If

so, you do not want to miss Park After Dark "S'mores and More" hosted by Sholom Park and Master the Possibilities Thursday, Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. Join special musical guest Mark Smythe for an old fashioned campfire style sing along, and roast marshmallows by the fire for s'mores.

Have you ever heard of "The Goonies?" Whether you have or you have not, do not miss Sholom Park's Sunset Cinema sponsored by Palm Chevrolet featuring the 1985 family-adventure film "The Goonies" Friday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. Pack up your chairs and blankets and enjoy a movie under the stars at Sholom Park.

The magical gnomes as fairies

are returning home to Sholom Park in February. Stay tuned for more information on our Fun at the Park Gnome and Fairy Festival.

If you would like to honor a loved one and create a long-lasting tribute, Sholom Park will be offering commemorative bricks that will be displayed around the park pavilion for many years to come. If you are interested in purchasing an engraved commemorative brick, please contact our foundation office at (352) 873-0848 ext. 7650.

Visit [www.sholompark.org](http://www.sholompark.org) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for up-to-date information and links for event tickets and registration.



Photos by Christina Shearer

"S'mores and More" hosted by Sholom Park and Master the Possibilities will take place Thursday, Jan. 21.



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**New Year, New Partnership**

Happy new year from The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa! As we say goodbye to a year that was fraught with many challenges, we now have the opportunity to ring in 2021

with great possibilities. The unforeseen challenges of 2020 have changed so many of our lives. One thing is certain, human resiliency comes from a sound mind in a strong body. That is our area of expertise and we can help with that.

The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa would like to extend an invitation to be your 2021 health and wellness partner. Here are some of the ways that we can collaborate in 2021 for a new future!

January is open house! We welcome all On Top of the World residents to stop by for a tour and a complimentary day pass. New members in January will receive a waived initiation fee (a \$35 savings!). We also have two special open house events that welcome all residents!

- Saturday, Jan. 16: Outdoor Zumba® Jam at 10 a.m. in the parking lot.
- Wednesday, Jan. 20: 5K Fun

Run/Walk at 8 a.m.

For our members who returned when we reopened, we thank you! You can count on us to maintain a steadfast commitment to increased sanitizing, physical distancing, and mandatory masks in common areas. Your safety is at the forefront of our priorities. We have a special member appreciation workout planned to energize you. Join us for a 90-minute Super Circuits blast Saturday, Jan. 30, at 8:30 a.m. After this special class, our team of trainers will be on hand for a meet and greet and to address all of your health and wellness questions.

The professional team in the spa and salon is ready to accommodate all of your health and beauty needs. We offer a full menu of services including hair, nails, facials, waxing and massage therapy. Visiting the spa is a great way to relax and leave your worries behind. You deserve to de-stress and The Ranch is ready to make that happen. Let off some steam in a Zumba® class, step off stress on the Stairmaster, then treat yourself to a new hairstyle, or a hot stone massage. Your partners at The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa are ready!



**Candler Connection**

**Debra Keirn**

Out with the old (year 2020) and in with the new (year 2021). Happy new year to all residents. We are praying for a better year in 2021 and are looking forward to the start-up of some of our social club activities in Candler Hills.

The Candler Connection Social Committee has nothing to report. All planned social activities have been postponed.

For those of you who are new to Candler Hills, let me list some of the yearly activities planned by Candler Connection (some are definitely cancelled, and some are hopeful).

- Spring dinner dance (cancelled)
- Two ice cream socials (hopefully in June and August)
- Monthly potluck dinners on the last Tuesday evening of each month (hopefully mid-year).
- A golf cart rally and scavenger

- hunt (hopefully in April).
- Annual picnic (hopefully in October).
- Holiday party (hopefully in December).

All of the above activities are great ways to meet your neighbors and to get to know them a little bit better. Volunteers are appreciated at each of the events. If you want to volunteer to help with the monthly potluck dinners, please contact Deb Keirn at (352) 414-5737 or at arthurkipdeb@verizon.net.

If you are interested in greeting new neighbors and helping with the very important Candler Hills ambassador program, contact Amy Waller at abwarnp97@aol.com. Several neighborhoods within Candler Hills still need ambassadors.

The 2021 speaker series will resume as soon as large crowds are permitted to gather at The Lodge at Candler Hills. The speaker committee headed by Doug Dahlen has some ideas for future presentations, but they cannot schedule anything until given the go ahead.

New residents of Candler Hills can log onto candlerconnection.org and fill out the form to receive "The Happenings" by email in order to learn about events and activities. Currently 1,253 residents of Candler Hills receive "The Happenings."

The Candler Connection Facebook group has grown to more than 892 members. This Facebook group is a good source of information for Candler Hills residents.

Richard Steinfeldt has a "new resident" presentation on Facebook to welcome new residents of Candler Hills. You can access this presentation at steinfeldt.com/ne-

wresonline.pdf .

The Candler Connection board meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

I want to thank each and every Candler Hills resident for your patience during these challenging times. Face masks and six feet of distancing are still a very important protocol.

I am confident that 2021 will be the year when we can resume our fun times. Hope to see you all around the neighborhood. Please stay healthy and safe, and we look forward to seeing you at some of the approved activities this year.



**Community Patrol**

**Erwin Fluss**

Happy new year to all; stay safe. Would you believe that just before the holidays two summonses were issued for speeding and one for stop sign violation right here inside of On Top of the World, by a kindly looking sheriff's deputy? Did you know that the sheriff patrols inside our community from time to time? Yes, Marion County Sheriff's Office patrols the community and will issue citations.

Stop means stop; speed limits are 30 mph on the main roads and 25 mph on side streets, unless otherwise posted. Please follow these rules.

The Community Patrol is here as a reminder to all and to help Marion County Sheriff's Office to be additional eyes. There is much need for additional volunteers. For more information, contact Paul Altman at (860) 460-7632 or shelves@aol.com.



**Democratic Club**

**Dan Lack**

Happy new year! 2021 has got to be better than 2020. We will resume our in-person meetings once it is safe to do so.

Our next online meeting will take place Thursday, Jan. 28, at 6 p.m. Club members will receive "where and when" information via email. Our by-laws call for the election of our board of directors during our January meeting. Here is the slate of candidates: President Daniel Lack; Vice President David Hypke; Secretary Lynn Miller; Treasurer Jill Carel; Director Glenn Cohen; Directors Evelyn Koffroth, Mark Miller and James Stormer.

Thank you to former Vice President Paul Pardee and former Directors Betty Broman and Bob Troy for contributing to the success of our club. You will be missed at our board meetings.

We continue to support the Ocala Ritz Veterans Village so that we can show our appreciation to these men and women who sacrificed so much for us. The Ritz is in need of paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, dish detergent, laundry detergent, toiletries, towels and wash cloths, shower curtains, peanut butter and jelly, canned food and dry food.

For more information contact Dan Lack at (352) 509-4942 or otowdemclub@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page (On Top of the World Democratic Club). You are not alone!

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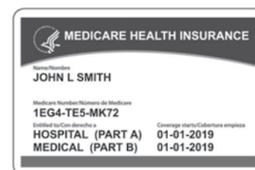
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The third annual Indigo East golf cart parade took place Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020.



**Indigo East Social Committee**

Janice Liberton

The Indigo East Social Committee craft show Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020, hosted by Alice Caldwell, was a huge success. If it were not for the craft show, one would not have known about all the talented people who reside in Indigo East.

The third annual golf cart parade, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, hosted by Harold Brouillard and Bob Hutson added a lot of fun and holiday cheer to our Indigo East neighborhood. Twenty residents participated with beautifully decorated carts that rode around our neighborhood. The winner of the best holiday golf cart was Paul and Sandy Selesky.

Tonight is New Year's Eve and soon we will be ushering in 2021. I found these fun facts regarding a toast of the bubbly at midnight to usher in the new year.

We use the term champagne to describe the bubbly wine we are drinking. However, champagne isn't truly champagne unless it is made from three varieties of grapes that can only be grown in a certain region of France. All other bubbly wine is actually just sparkling wine.

However, California sparkling wines are entitled California champagne because they are made in the champagne method of northeast France known as the methode Champenoise. The champagne region of France was once the floor of an ancient pre-historic sea. The chalky remains of the ancient sea creatures are the "soil" for champagne's grapes. The addition of yeast and sugar to the wine for the second fermentation creates the bubbles in champagne. Workers called "riddlers" twist champagne bottles an eighth of a turn every day to push the dead yeast or "lees" into the neck of the bottle.

Early manufacturers came down to their wine cellars to find corks had blown out of several champagne bottles prematurely. This caused many champagne workers of days gone by to wear iron helmets to prevent injury. The pressure in a bottle of champagne is 90 pounds per square inch, or three times the amount of pressure in a car tire. The longest recorded flight of a champagne cork was 177 feet, or roughly 54 meters, half that of a football field. Champagne corks fly out at speeds near 25 mph if the bottle is vigorously shaken. "Sabrage" is the term for opening a champagne bottle with a sword.

The most expensive bottle of champagne cost \$2.07 million because there is a diamond ingraind on the outside of the bottle. Marilyn Monroe took a bath in champagne; it took 350 bottles to fill the tub. Queen Victoria and Edward VII loved champagne and only drank Joseph Perrier champagne. The most leading sparkling wines in the United States are LaMarca, Prosecco, and Korbel and Cook's California Champagne. There are currently over one billion bottles of champagne in storage worldwide.

However you choose to spend New Year's Eve, party hearty but drink responsibly.

The Indigo East Social Committee and I wish each of you a very happy new year with peace, joy, good health and prosperity in 2021. As usual, I'll see you around the neighborhood.

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**Recreation Center**  
Theresa Fields  
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t\_fields@otowfl.com

So many of us are welcoming 2021 with open arms and positive vibes as we push 2020 out of here. Community safety protocols remain in place to properly distance at six feet, wear face masks in all indoor facilities (recommended outdoors), minimize the number of persons gathering, and keep



**The Lodge at Candler Hills**  
Cassie Cummings  
(352) 387-9508  
thelodge@otowfl.com

2021 is here! Hopefully we can begin to move forward in the safest fashion. The Lodge of Candler Hills will be closed Friday, Jan. 1, on New Year's Day.

Please note our current indoor facility safety protocols:

**The Lodge at Candler Hills Monday – Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

- Maximum person capacity is 50; two residents per table.
- Candler Hills resident ID required, no guests at this time.
- Card playing is postponed at this time.
- Mandatory six-feet of social distancing at all times.
- Face masks required indoors.

**Candler Hills Community Center**

- Maximum person capacity is 25, two residents per table.



**Indigo East**  
Nora Dominguez  
(352) 387-7372

I wish all residents a very happy, healthy and safe new year. Last year, we faced a lot of uncertainty and have great hope 2021 will be a much better year. Even though there are still major concerns, we can see positive signs for 2021.

January is a good month to take advantage of our garden plot program. Residents are eligible for one garden plot per household depending on availability. At this time there are plots available. If you are interested, come to the Indigo East Fitness Center office and the staff will go over the rules and assign you a plot.

I would like to remind everyone that the Dog Park is available to you and your dog. However, please remember it is still your responsibility to clean up after your dog.

The events at On Top of the World are still on hold until further notice. All safety protocols continue and include six-foot distancing; mandatory face masks inside facilities; face masks required at outside facilities within six-foot distance; only two guests per household allowed at pools; guests must be accompanied by Indigo East resident; resident ID required to enter both facilities; and no inside guests continues for now.

Room bookings are now available for 2022. Please see me to schedule.



**OneBlood Bloodmobile**  
Sara Sommer

The Big Red Bus® was here Monday, Dec. 7, 2020. There were 39 angels who came to give the gift of life. We were able to save up to 117 lives. What a wonderful turnout. Each donor received a fuzzy warm throw and a \$10 ecard.

The next date is Tuesday, Feb. 2. Please note that this is a Tuesday. The Big Red Bus will be in the Recreation Center parking lot from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. After February, the schedule will return to the first Monday of every even month. All blood types are needed especially after the latest holiday season. It takes about 2,500 donations each day to meet the needs of patients in our local hospitals. The need is that large and constant. If every donor gave just one more time, we could eliminate blood shortages.

See you on the bus.

**GOT TRASH?**  
Please put all trash in compactor.

hands washed/sanitized. Protocols are posted at each facility location. Please take the time to review.

Guests are permitted at all outdoor facilities. Please note there is a two-guest limit at pools and whirlpools. Tag and estate sales have resumed.

On Top of the World has opened to full capacity at all outdoor sports facilities, pavilions, pools and game room. Restaurants have returned to full capacity as well. We will continue to carefully monitor the key COVID-19 metrics for Marion County and specific zip codes for

- Candler Hills resident ID required, no guests at this time.
- Card playing is postponed at this time.
- Mandatory six-feet of social distancing at all times.
- Face masks required indoors. Pools and hot tub are open daily from 9 a.m. to dusk; only two guests allowed per household.
- Please take note of our monthly pool cleaning closure schedule:
  - The Lodge at Candler Hills pool is closed on the last Wednesday of the month.
  - The Candler Hills Community Center pool is closed the second Wednesday of the month.

We are now accepting 2022 room request bookings. These bookings will not be approved until late summer.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and I look forward to meeting you and booking your special parties and events!

Welcome to all new residents. If you have any questions or want more detailed information about the community, please stop by the Indigo East Fitness Center office (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

Office telephone number is (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7372 and 7373.

Holiday facility hours are:

- Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020: Indigo East Fitness Center and Indigo East Community Center, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Friday, Jan. 1: Both facilities are closed. Pools remain open.

On Top of the World.

It is important that everyone do their part so that we can see a decline in infection rates. Remember to monitor the [www.otowinfo.com](http://www.otowinfo.com) for additional information regarding facility openings to full capacity, events starting back and guests in private venues soon to be announced in the near future as the numbers hopefully start to decline in the upcoming months with the vaccine on the horizon.

Please note that this means all outdoor sports complexes are open to 100% capacity as long as your group can maintain the six feet of distancing. Face masks are recommended but not required outdoors.

All indoor venues are still limited, as no changes have been made at this time. If you are planning on using a facility, please remember to book the facility through the Recreation Center office prior to use. Residents are responsible for their own personal safety and for compliance with the safety protocols for each location. Keeping our residents and employees safe will remain our focus.

We are now accepting 2022 room request bookings. These bookings will not be approved until late summer of 2021.

Please note that all facilities are closed Thursday, Jan. 1.

**Line Dance Classes**

Many considerations have been made for your comfort and safety as line dance classes resume. Due to mandatory class size restrictions, the largest classes have been split into two sessions. All classes will be 50 minutes long to allow time for entry and exit. These changes will be adjusted as restrictions are lifted. Each class will start at a slow pace as we regain our physical and emotional energies and recover from nine months of "stay at home" time.

Classes are held in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Face masks are required. Please sign up well in advance of your dance class, as no passes will be issued on Mondays prior to class. The Recreation Center office will be handling all registrations and your cooperation is greatly appreciated. (Please remember gathering is not allowed in the Recreation Center lobby.) All classes are progressive September 2020 through June 2021.

**Mondays**

- Absolute Beginners (noon to 1 p.m.): This class started in September 2020 as an Introduction to Line Dance and progressed into Absolute Beginners. Step patterns are described, practice and used in simple patterns.
- Beginner Level 2 (2:10 to 3 p.m.): Prior dance experience needed. Higher level beginner plus dances taught. New patterns taught as needed.
- Beginner Level 1 (3:15 to 4:05 p.m. and 4:20 to 5:10 p.m.): Dancers know basic steps and patterns learned in Absolute Beginner and are ready to move on to more. Easy dances with additional step patterns taught.

**Tuesdays**

- Improver (1 p.m.): Dance experience required for this class. Current, popular dances are taught that include easy intermediate dances.

**Community Bus**

The community bus is running by appointment only with limited seating. The bus runs Monday through Thursday with a morning and afternoon run. The times and destinations have temporarily changed to Aldi, Publix, Lowe's, Bealls, Big Lots, Sav-A-Lot and Super Walmart. You can make reservations by calling the Recreation Center office at (352) 387-7533. Please note that the bus will not run Friday, Jan. 1.

**Community Pavilions**

Please keep in mind that to guarantee your use, pavilions at the Veterans Park, Recreation Center, The Lodge at Candler Hills and Indigo East, require prior booking.

**Events**

Please note that the annual Health & Wellness Expo and Home Improvement Expo have been cancelled for this year.

**Craft Show**

The weekly Tuesday craft show, hosted by Artistic Crafts & Gifts, is back. It is held every Tuesday in the Recreation Center Ballroom, from 9 a.m. to noon. If you are looking for a special gift for someone this would be a great opportunity to check out what the crafters have made.

Stay safe and continue to monitor [otowinfo.com](http://otowinfo.com) for the latest updates.



**Elvis: Eras of a King**  
Starring Cote Deonath

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Join us for the Return of Elvis at Circle Square Cultural Center for the annual Habitat for Humanity of Marion County benefit concert! World champion Elvis Tribute Artist Cote Deonath will take the stage bringing you an action-packed show, featuring all 4 eras of The King, including 50s, the movies, 60s and 70s. This high energy show is like no other; Elvis' music lives forever!

Special appearances from Buddy Holly and Ed Sullivan starring George Trullinger.

[CoteasElvis.com](http://CoteasElvis.com)  
SHOW BEGINS AT 6:15 PM & DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM

**Circle Square Cultural Center**

Face masks required at all times

8395 SW 80th Street, Ocala, FL 34481 | (352) 854-3670 | [CSCulturalCenter.com](http://CSCulturalCenter.com)  
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Gift Certificates Available



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352-661-2055 | [TheVillagesHealth.com/World](https://TheVillagesHealth.com/World)

The Villages Health



Photo by Ray Cech

Lee Collins and Vanessa Rodriguez helping Interfaith Emergency Services volunteers load donations.

## Food Drive Beats Expectations

By Ray Cech  
World News Writer

The annual On Top of the World food drive, once again demonstrated the generosity and caring of people within our community. Donations far exceeded previous drives. More than 7,000 pounds were collected — 3,000 pounds greater than last year.

The food drive ran from Nov. 23 through Dec. 13, 2020, and was well advertised on social media, in the World News, and around the

community.

Items donated ranged from peanut butter (nope, no jelly) to pasta sauces, spaghetti, canned foods of every variety, to toothbrushes, diapers and, of course, toilet paper.

The drive was again coordinated by Sales Office Manager Vanessa Rodriguez — her third year responsible for the drive. Vanessa is a high energy, young lady who enjoys taking on projects, such as the food

drive, and turning them into applaudable results. During this food drive, she added a few twists — for example, she set aside a special day for the Interfaith Emergency Services to accept drive-by donations in the new home sales parking lot. It resulted in a one-day record, collecting over 2,000 pounds of donations! Vanessa also made sure that every drop-off location was convenient and accessible to residents.

Every day, and sometimes twice a day, Lee Collins of the On Top of the World maintenance department, would make the rounds to each drop-off location and bring it all to one of the storage facilities. In previous years, Interfaith Emer-

gency Services volunteers picked up the donations at the end of the three-week food drive. This year, however, due to the generous response shown by our community, they happily had to make an additional pickup midway through the drive.

This year, many people in Ocala have found themselves without the means to properly feed their families. But through the generosity of our residents, and the time donated by Vanessa Rodriguez, her team of volunteers, and Interfaith Emergency Services, they could look forward to putting food on the table this past holiday season.

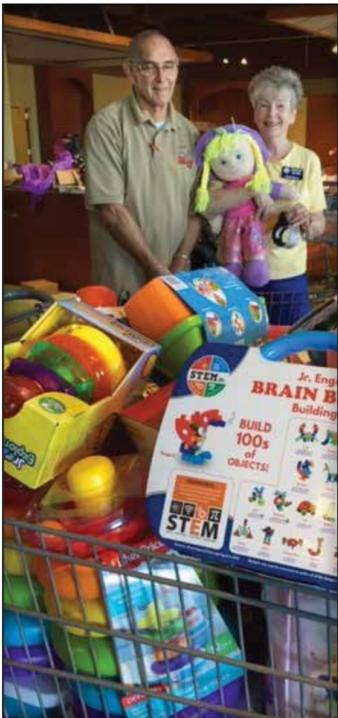


Photo by Gail Morris

Lion Charlie Hassett helping at Toys for Tots.



Photo by Holly Neal

Thanksgiving meal delivery with Lion Estelle Michelson, Lion Moses Morris, Dunnellon Elementary Principal Karen English, Lions Charlie Hassett and Gail Morris.

## A Season of Giving

By Gail Morris

As the new year begins, the Lions Club is still zooming and meeting in person with social distancing and face masks. We are meeting the second and fourth Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Arbor Conference Center Event room.

Lion Estelle has been working with our local Walmart and Publix to help us help others. We were able to present 15 family meal

baskets to families at Dunnellon Elementary. Publix generously donated the turkeys and Walmart provided a \$1,000 grant for us to continue through the holidays to provide meals to those in greatest need. Thank you to our community supporters.

Club members approved an expenditure of \$540 to purchase wreaths for the "Wreaths Across

America" program. Members will be presenting the wreaths at the Veterans Memorial at the Veterans Park as well as to the veterans at Tucker Hill Cemetery.

We continued our community outreach with our Toys for Tots tree in the Recreation Center Ballroom. Thank you all for your continued support of this project the response has been wonderful. Lion Charlie has been collecting the toys and delivering them to the distribution site in Market Street at Heath Brook.

If you know of someone who is struggling financially and is in need of an eye exam or eyeglasses, please contact our Lions Club. We have an application process for such services.

Anyone interested in attending a meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month come to the Arbor Conference Center Event Room. We would love to have you join us in helping others. If you would like to join us, please contact Estelle Michelson our membership chair at (352) 861-7358 for more details.



We're welcoming 2021 with hopes for a healthier world! For January and February, we have decided on a meeting hiatus. We may call a Zoom session or, if the weather supports it, an impromptu outdoor gathering. Look for a newsletter with updates on what is happening in Ocala from our usual opening year speaker, Pat Gabriel. She has agreed to a special write-up just for us.

In March, we will resume our regular meeting schedule, albeit outdoors, with a St. Patrick's Day just for fun party with music by the Banjo Band.

April brings opening day of our beloved Detroit Tiger baseball season. This is the time we normally look forward to a Coney Island picnic. However, we will wait on stats to decide when to have it.

The Dulcimer Club helped us herald in the holidays in December 2020 with a great presentation of age-old carols with a bit of history about each one. Thanks to Carolyn Abramovich for arranging this fun outdoor concert. We got to sing along to tunes we all knew.

Kimberly's Center for Child Protection received a Santa sack full of toys from the Michigan Club to brighten their holidays.

If you are from Michigan or just like to vacation in our state, please join us when we meet again. Call Nancy Meininger to be put on our mailing list at (352) 342-9757.



Socially distanced seating kept concert goes safe.

Photos by Nancy Meininger

**On Top of the World NEWS**

**GOOD NEWS TO SHARE?**  
Email [otownews@otowfl.com](mailto:otownews@otowfl.com) with your idea(s). If approved, a World News writer will be assigned.

Only good news about the community, a club(s) or a resident(s) will be considered.

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Photo by Jim Di Paolo

**Astronomy Club President Jim Di Paolo plays holiday music on Zoom for the December 2020 Astronomy Club meeting.**



The Moonstruck Astronomy Club held its annual holiday celebration Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020, via Zoom. Twenty members joined in the festivities online. Following announcements, elections were held for next year's officers, in which the current slate of officers was re-elected: Jim Di Paolo, president; Larry Isenberg, vice president; and John Bridges, secretary.

Larry Isenberg then presented "10 Fun Facts About the Moon-

struck Astronomy Club" with accompanying photos, and John Bridges provided his monthly update on the December sky, featuring moon phases, planetary positions, and bright stars and constellations in the winter sky. Bridges pointed out two special events for the month: the Geminid Meteor Shower Dec. 13 to 14, 2020 and the super-conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn Dec. 21, 2020.

Club members then enjoyed some specially organized holiday games, including an "astronomy bowl" quiz and "name that astronomical tune" featuring piano music played by President Jim Di Paolo. The festive meeting ended with a round of carols and familiar

holiday favorites with Di Paolo on the keyboard.

Six new members have joined the Moonstruck Astronomy Club in recent months, and excitement about astronomy continues to build. Regular club meetings are on the second Thursday of every month from 1:30 to 3 p.m. For now, they will remain online. More evening observing sessions will be announced to members via email in the afternoon of any day that weather conditions allow for an open sky and owners of telescopes are willing to set up for others to see interesting celestial objects. Sessions begin after dark near the flying field and last into the evening, depending on the conditions and on the prospect of

seeing specific targets as they cross the night sky. Until further notice, participants must wear face masks and maintain social distancing throughout the time they are at the observing session. Other instructions and precautions will be provided in emails announcing each session.

Any resident can join the Moonstruck Astronomy Club, and new members are welcome! Yearly club dues are only \$15 per year, which includes a subscription to the quarterly Reflector Magazine. For information or club registration, please contact President Jim Di Paolo at moonastroclub@gmail.com.

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**Genealogy Society**

Peter Parisi

On Monday, Nov. 16, 2020, Karen Fortin, a professional genealogist, gave an informative educational presentation, "Who Were the Passengers of the Mayflower" via Zoom.

This year we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the landing of the pilgrims in Plymouth Harbor, Massachusetts. Who were these passengers? There were 102 passengers, half of whom were women and children, plus 20 to 30 crew members. They also brought along some chickens, goats and two dogs.

They left Plymouth, England September 6, 1620 on a ship never designed for the trip across the Atlantic. They were crammed into tight spaces with little privacy, unsanitary conditions and dwindling supplies. Sickness spread throughout the ship. They were supposed to land in the Virginia Colony, but because of severe storms, they were forced further north and anchored in Provincetown harbor on Cape Cod, Massachusetts Nov. 9, 1620.

By that time, two people had already passed away. Upon arriving at Cape Cod, because they wouldn't be protected by the laws of the Virginia Company, they drafted up the Mayflower Compact, the first document to establish self-government in the New World. They explored the area, looking for a good place to establish the colony, and landed

at Plymouth, Massachusetts Dec. 18, 1620. By the end of the first year after setting up their colony in Plymouth, Massachusetts, more than half of the people had passed away, most because of the harsh New England winter.

Who were these people and why did they leave the world they knew? One-third of the passengers were "strangers." They were craftsmen and merchants recruited to build the community once they landed in North America. Thirty-seven of the passengers were from an English Separatist congregation, the Puritans, whose goal was to "purify" the Church of England of what they perceived, were its corrupt doctrine and practices. They had hired the captain and the Mayflower to bring them to the New World, so they could practice their religion freely.

Many were fare paying passengers who came with their servants. Some notables among the passengers were Stephen Hopkins, who was one of 41 signatories of the Mayflower Compact, and an assistant governor of Plymouth Colony through 1636, William Bradford, governor of Plymouth Colony intermittently for 30 years and Miles Standish, hired as a military adviser. Of the 26 families that survived the first winter of 1620-21, there are approximately 35 million of their descendants today.

All of the following meetings take place at 10 a.m. Members will be notified by email from our new club president, Paul Belter, on how to access Zoom.

On Monday, Feb. 8, there will be an open genealogy discussion by the membership on genealogy issues or discoveries they have learned.

On Monday, Feb. 15, Melissa Barker, a certified archives manager and public historian, will give an educational presentation "The Home Archivist: Preserving Family Records Like a Pro."

Visit [otowgens.shutterfly.com](http://otowgens.shutterfly.com) for more information.



**Texas Connection Social Club**

Kathy Cornell

Texans are known for their love of chili. Some of us joke that it's our first solid food as a baby. We'll eat it any time of the year but enjoy it most when the weather gets nippy. In Florida that's usually in January, so that's when Texas Connection normally holds its annual chili cook-off. Sadly, this year's competition is cancelled.

Though there won't be chili to dole out to our group this year, I do have some folklore to share about chili's origins and some theories about how our favorite dish became popular.

The oldest story is that 17th century nun, Sister Mary of Agreda (Spain), fell into a trance and was spiritually transported to what is now the southwest corner of the United States. She preached the Gospel message to the native peoples and in return they gave her a recipe for a spicy stew made of venison, onion, tomatoes, and chili peppers. She supposedly wrote down the recipe though no such writing has actually been found.

Another account from a century later says a group of 56 people sailed from the Canary Islands, settled in Texas and ultimately founded San Antonio. The women of the group created a spicy stew that later became known as chili.

The most entertaining and be-

lievable story takes place when 19th century Spanish priests questioned the innocence of the fiery soup. They claimed the peppers that provided the heat were an aphrodisiac, calling it the "Soup of the Devil." Their misgivings had the opposite effect. Instead of discouraging parishioners from eating chili, the flames of passion were fueled instead.

There is a theory that chili was a staple on the mid-19th century cattle drives. Before hitting the trail, dried beef, fat, pepper, salt, and chile peppers were pounded together into stackable rectangles that could easily be rehydrated with boiling water.

In 1860 the Texas jailhouse version of bread and water was a stew of the cheapest available ingredients (tough beef that was finely chopped and boiled in water with chiles and spices until an edible consistency). The "prisoner's plight" supposedly became a status symbol of the Texas prisons and inmates would rate jails on the quality of their chili. The Texas prison system made such good chili that freed inmates often wrote for the recipe, saying they really missed that good bowl of chili.

However you make your chili or whatever origin story you believe, if you have a connection to Texas, you'll find some kindred spirits in our group. For more information and to get on the email list for club news and notifications contact Kathy Cornell at (352) 300-3729, (352) 562-2801 or [kcornell54@cfl.rr.com](mailto:kcornell54@cfl.rr.com).

**KNOW what's BELOW**  
**Call 811 before you dig!**  
**IT'S THE LAW!**



**What's Cookin'**

Elaine Morrison

This year I jerked around with the Thanksgiving turkey and was quite pleased with the result. If you are inspired to try it, I suggest you

do a trial run with perhaps a small bird sometime during the year that looms large before next Thanksgiving. For those of you who prepare turkey at other times than holidays, you can get a good head start.

**Jerky Turkey**

- 1 12-to-14-pound turkey, defrosted, giblets and excess fat removed
- 1 jar jerk sauce (I used mild)
- 1 to 2 sticks unsalted butter, room temperature
- Kosher salt
- Ground pepper

Rinse and pat dry turkey. Slather it with the jerk sauce, inside the cavity and outside and place in a large plastic bag. Squeeze out as much air as possible. Seal and refrigerate the bird for at least 24 hours, but preferably 48 hours, turning it occasionally.

On the day you cook the turkey, heat the oven to 350 degrees while you wipe away all the excess jerk sauce, inside and outside and liberally sprinkle it with salt and pepper. Rub the softened butter under the breast skin and all around the bird, front and back. Put the turkey in a deep roasting pan, lower the oven temperature to 325 degrees, and place it on the bottom rung of the oven. Roast uncovered, basting occasionally for 2-1/2 to 3 hours.

Remove from the oven and let rest before carving.

I found the turkey to be moist and flavorful. Hope you do too.

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**Computer Club**

Chris Kilbride

Every Saturday at 9 a.m. the Computer Club meets for an hour through our online meetings to answer both PC and Apple-related questions regarding software and hardware. Our otowpcclub.org website will give lots of great information about our group.

This month we feature Rudy Dagnello who was born the seventh child, fifth boy of eight children to Angelina and Nicholas, in May many years ago. In New York, his family lived in the Williamsburg section on the third floor. He went to Public School 17, then to Eastern District High School. He studied nights at John Jay College, graduating after seven years, and then did some graduate work at Bernard Baruch, on 23rd Street in the borough of Manhattan.

Rudy studied bookkeeping, typing and stenography in high school, then received his bachelor's in criminal justice. He worked for a custom-built furniture company, an answering service, and finally, 27 years for the U.S. Postal Service. He highlighted seven of those years spent in the postal inspection service's crime lab, and twelve years in customer service.

Having written 51 poems with religious, social and political themes, he started to write a book on the cooperation at rehabilitation centers between staff and patients but he feels he will probably never finish it. Rudy has been told he has a nice voice when singing karaoke, and loves to participate in this venue. He's proud to have recorded his own CD about 10 years ago, and still enjoys listening to it.

Moving to Florida in 2000, he bought a house in Summerfield, sold it, and then moved to On Top of the World in 2007.

All residents are welcome to join our club, with \$10 individual yearly dues or \$15 per couple. The Contact page on otowpcclub.org or email otowpcclub@gmail.com will get you in touch with us.

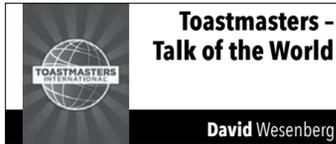
Each Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m., we offer free online help sessions. Members may discuss their PC or Apple computer, smart phone or device issues for one-on-one instruction.

Software links for PC and Apple related topics are listed on the website to help you on your educational journey to learn more or find a solution to a problem.

Members may list on our website any computer related software or hardware for sale or to give away.

We keep the meeting fun and offer good advice and solutions to help to our members. Hope to see you on Saturday!

**GOT TRASH?**  
Please put all trash in compactor.



**Toastmasters - Talk of the World**

David Wesenberg

This coming month, we will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 13 and 27. Our theme for December is "Respect." We have some pretty exciting and interesting speeches that are worth seeing and listening to. They include "What's Mentoring got to do with it?" by Pam Winter (motivation); "My Proposal" by Janet Voyles (innovative planning); "Eulogy to my Mother" by Dave Wesenberg (social speeches); "My Message" by Nancy Wilson (Club Excellence); "Art of

Mentoring" by Leona Vlacancich (motivation); and "Teachers are Heroes" by Dave Wesenberg (social speeches).

We at Talk of the World Toastmasters have had the good luck to have guests to hear our speeches last month. Among them were Douglas Cannatella, Richard Wesenberg and Lisa Yang. Several of our guests have expressed a desire to join our club.

If you would like to join us via Zoom to see and hear these speeches, contact David Wesenberg at dpw@mastersoftwareinc.com or (217) 280-4454 for instructions to join the meeting.

As Toastmasters, our members learn something every meeting. For example, we knew very little

about Zoom, which allows us to meet while on our phones, tablets and computers from home or as we travel. Now we know much more. We see a window into each member's life and experiences, expanding our own knowledge from what they have learned. Finally, we prepare to share our experience with others outside of Toastmasters. For example, every year Rob Vlacancich presents "The Night Before Christmas" as dramatic entertainment for our club at Christmas time.

Do you want to share your experiences and learning with others? Do you want to learn from the experiences of others? Join us on second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8:30 a.m. and share.



Photo by Cammy Dennis

**Native Plant Group members, Yvonne Beckman and Margitta Claterbos, tending to the native plants at the Longleaf Pine Trail entrance.**

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- Japanese I (Online Only)**  
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- Beginning Sign Language**  
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**Native Plant Group**

Ron Broman

You are absolutely right. This is not a tree. You are also quite correct in commenting that this plant is not blooming now, so how can we play the game of "Where in the World Grows This Tree?" I have my reasons for featuring this plant just now, so please hear me out.

It's a new year! It's between Christmas, Hanukkah, Passover and Easter, and other special and beautiful celebrations. This is also an especially beautiful plant. Her colors are perfect. I dare not give you her name as it's much more fun to do the research. Let's just say she looks like she would be in the lily family, but instead she's in the amaryllis family. She's the only member of this species native to Florida.

Here are just some of her attributes qualifying her as "special." First, she is tolerant of both shade and full sun. Not many plants can say that about themselves. She's

a perennial. Once you plant the seeds, that's it. Her leaves, spirally arranged and strap-shaped, make them most attractive. Her flowers are very fragrant. As you can see, her blossoms are notably showy. Finally, thanks to someone, I don't know who, she has our country's name in her botanical name!

But the best part, I think, is that we have chosen this plant as our Christmas card this year, and now you are receiving her picture along with our love!

Even though her flower is not blooming now, her leaves are there for all to see. So now it's your turn to decide where in On Top of the World she is growing. Here are a couple more clues. She's growing in the same general area as the red cedar and the sand live oak we featured earlier; and in a garden with a very strange name.

By the time you read this, our beautiful blue green earth will have traveled far enough around that big fiery ball that its days are slowly getting longer. Before very long, this special plant will again be in flower. I can hardly wait.

Join us, if you wish, in the Native Plant Group as we continue to

maintain the trail, the arboretum and the SW 94th Street traffic circle. Call us at (352) 861-4560 when you

decide where this plant is growing and/or when you decide to join our group as together we grow native.



Photo by Ron Broman

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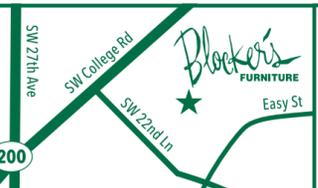
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**Scandinavian American Club**

Ginny Nardone

Happy 2021! As our club continues its hiatus, Vice Chair Linda Pinney came up with a creative and caring way to stay connected with our active club members. She designed and made an original line of Christmas cards with a Scandinavian theme and message. Even though we are not together now, we are still able to keep in touch by sending our good wishes by mail.

We all certainly hope that during 2021 we can resume in-person meetings at some point. If things change in the coming months club members will be notified through this column, by email or by telephone. Linda and I will do our best to keep everyone informed.

For more information about the Scandinavian Club, please contact Ginny Nardone at (352) 304-8619.



**SPCA of Marion County**

Paula Gajewski

We are hopeful as 2021 gets going that we can resume regular activities. We have been manning our table at the Circle Square Commons Farmers Market on Thursday mornings. Our supporters have stopped by with donations of pet food for which we are grateful. We do have a SPCA table at the craft show on Tuesday mornings in the Recreation Center Ballroom. We always have information on available pets for adoption.

Check out the tabbies! Patrick is a seven-month-old young man who is polydactyl (six toes). His sister Sheba is a domestic longhair tuxedo tabby. These two gentle creatures are a pleasure to have in foster care. Sheba is camera-shy and runs when she hears the camera open. Patrick is a quiet soul who is just relaxing most of the time. They both seem to be growing into big cats. Sheba is close to six pounds and Patrick is close to seven pounds. They are spayed/neutered, up to date on vaccines, and microchipped.

Contact the SPCA of Marion County at (352) 362-0985 or [spca.marion.county@gmail.com](mailto:spca.marion.county@gmail.com) to set up an adoption appointment. The adoption application is available on our website at [www.spcaofmarion-county.weebly.com](http://www.spcaofmarion-county.weebly.com).



Photos by Paula Gajewski  
Patrick (top) and Sheba.



Scandinavian-themed holiday cards created by Linda Pinney.

Photo by Linda Pinney



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**Bunco Babes Social Group**

**Micki Malsch**

The Bunco Babes Social Group is postponed until further notice. Please refer to the World News for updated information.

The group plays bunco in the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studio IV on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Registration is at 6:45 p.m.;

games begin at 7 p.m. Check the World News for the next scheduled game.

The Bunco for Babies fundraiser luncheon for the March of Dimes will be held on Saturday, March 27. Please hold onto your tickets. The location has been changed to the Arbor Conference Center; the time remains the same as printed on your tickets.

For more information, please call Micki Malsch at (352) 615-2790. Stay safe and be healthy until we meet again!



**Archery Club**

**Leslie McCormick**

At year's end we take time to reflect on what has been good in our lives and what we have accomplished. As a new club we can look back almost exactly two years. What began as just a vision became a reality with the official launch of the club May 18, 2018 and a handful of charter members.

Through 2018 and 2019 membership continued to grow, even though we only saw an open field, architectural plans and an artist rendering of the range as a component of the Veterans Park. We gathered for monthly club meetings, enjoyed two social events in 2019 (hot dogs and subs/salads), and many of us made trips to Easton-Newberry where we found it easy to develop a passion for archery. All of this without a range! Late 2019 and early 2020 presented various challenges but we were able to announce the club's official range opening day May 21, 2020.

As an outdoor activity, we have been able to have eight months' worth of full range operations including four club shoots (Labor Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving and today's New Year's Eve Vegas Shoot), our first league session and a ladies spyder challenge. Since the range opening, we have welcomed new members every month, many of whom discovered archery for the first time or picked it up again since elementary or high school or summer camp. Many new archers have progressed from 10 yard shots to even 40 to 60 yards within a few months. It has also been interesting to see that a number of experienced archers move here with archery equipment, not necessarily knowing that there is an archery range!

The camaraderie amongst members has been wonderful, archers helping other archers, regardless of their level of experience. I watched several shooters out on the field recently helping a fellow shooter find an arrow that had gone over the target. It looked like what you see at a polo match when the players are between chukkers and the spectators are out stomping the divots!

Challenges of 2020 prompted new means of communication for the club. We conducted the election of four board officers electronically and launched a monthly newsletter to keep members abreast of activities of the board members and committees including pro shop and range operations, safety and training and range events.

In closing out the year, Bob Pirner sent a message to all club members recognizing over 30 volunteers who gave their time and talents to the successful operation of the club. We thank all of our volunteers in advance for the help we know they will give in 2021.

We are excited to see what the new year will have for us. To date we know that plans are in the works to re-establish club meetings and there are two leagues being formed: a 20 yard mixed league (compound and recurve) and a league for recurve bow archers only.

If you are interested in learning more about the club, please contact Leslie at [llmccorm74@aol.com](mailto:llmccorm74@aol.com).

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The new year is a time for reflection. As several of the 2020 board members depart, we looked back at all that was and those hopeful plans we made for the year ahead. We asked ourselves the question, "What might we as a team achieve? How will we grow? How will what we do, change things for the better?" We were excited and expecting to bring our activities up to a new level.

Then things changed, which had a big impact on the club, its members and us as individuals. Everything we decided upon had to be in the best interest of the membership. This collective journey was

bigger than any one of us, influenced by events that were largely beyond our control. We had to think of other ways to reach out to our group.

We focused on increasing our communication efforts, using social media to stay connected and to lend a voice to the membership. Working quietly behind the scenes, the board built a new infrastructure that could endure the changes needed today and in the future: a strong membership database, a new email system, a broader Facebook presence and our own website.

We changed the way we worked with our partners such as Interfaith Emergency Services and the membership was able once again to serve those less fortunate. Members conducted multiple new member drives to reach out to those who moved here in the middle of

2020 and were so rapidly isolated. We called, wrote, masked up, stood six feet apart and talked to our members. We met so many wonderful people in the process.

Now here we are, the old board bids our members adieu, and the new board is charged with carrying the torch forward. And like Glinda in "Wicked" sings: "Who can say if we've been changed for the better. But because we knew you, we have been changed for good."

Thank you to the 2020 board, for all you did - it was hard and at times emotional work. Thank you, Jane Parker, for your wonderful database and news headliner skills. Thank you, Jane Vollrath, for learning how to word process. Thank you, Bob Mason, for hanging in with your sage advice in the midst of your own pressing needs. Thank you, Ed Mathena, for your historical understanding of the club and for

staying on when we needed you. And to the rest of our members, who move forward to the 2021 board George, Sandy, Neil, and Janice. They designed new flyers, wrote and balanced the checkbook, inventoried every napkin and made many phone calls. It was such a pleasure working with you all.

Welcome and best wishes for a tremendous year of success to our 2021 board. Thanks to Kathy Mansfield, Aggie Mahoney and Helen Anderson, for returning to the fold, Dave Woitek for volunteering weeks after he moved here, and Cathy Clinton whose fiery spirit is bound to heat things up this year. They are ready.

The Active Singles Club motto is single, not alone. Write us at [activesinglesotow@outlook.com](mailto:activesinglesotow@outlook.com) or visit us at [otowactivesinglesclub.com](http://otowactivesinglesclub.com).



December 2020 was another very busy month for the SWANS! Our meet and greet events were such a hit that some of the ladies have decided to continue them in January in their homes. None had been set up for these months because of not being sure of the weather and having to meet outside. A few ladies with larger homes have volunteered them. They will be adhering to safety guidelines while being able to socialize with their friends!

We all continue to keep very busy. Several of our ladies are playing shuffleboard while several others have learned to play Samba. Give Lois a call if you are interested in learning. Many are still getting together to play Samba, Mahjongg, and various other card and/or board games.

Dining at Turnpike Mike's has worked out very well. We had two groups attend the Friday night fish fry during November 2020. We will probably try this again in the new year. We are keeping our groups to no more than 10 women. Get in touch with Lois if you are interested!

Our trip to Daytona Beach was

a little wet from the storm that arrived when we did but everyone enjoyed themselves, nonetheless. Thank goodness for the underground parking at the hotel. It is very convenient during rainstorms! More restaurants were open for us to enjoy this time also! The hotel was less busy as we were checking in on a Sunday while everyone else was checking out. Plans are already being made for a trip in May and November. McKenna's was very happy to see us back as were several other businesses in the area.

The hotel had its usual "Welcome OTOW SWANS" on the marquee.

Our Christmas party was well attended on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020. There were door prizes and a Chinese auction! For many years now our Christmas charity has been the Women's Crisis Center. Our members are always so generous, and they did not fail us this year. Thanks so much for your continued kindness and generosity ladies! The Crisis Center is very thankful for your generosity as it has been a particularly tough year.

You may join the SWANS at any time! We always welcome new members and new ideas! After last month's column, we welcomed four new members to our group! The SWANS have been active for the past 15 years. We continue to be supportive of each other. Our motto is "SWANS are never alone!" We hope your holidays were wonderful and that you were blessed. Stay healthy and be smart about your activities! If you are interested in joining us, please contact Lois Nix for more information.



Travel Toppers is proud to celebrate 30 years of service by volunteers who have arranged trips for residents and guests. During this time, Travel Toppers has arranged day trips, overnight trips, and cruises at the best possible cost to our residents. Please visit [traveltopperstours.com](http://traveltopperstours.com) for updated information regarding upcoming trips.

We are excited to tell you about a great cruise Travel Toppers is planning Oct. 31 through Nov. 7, on the Royal Caribbean Allure of the Seas leaving from Port Canaveral, Florida. The ports of call will be St.

Johns, Antigua; St. Thomas, USVI; and Royal Caribbean's private island, Coco-Cay. Interior cabins are from \$1,295 per person. Ocean view cabins are from \$1,425 per person; ocean view balcony cabins and boardwalk balcony cabins are from \$1,545 per person. Central park balcony cabins are from \$1,465 per person. All of these rates include the cruise, all taxes, fees, shipboard gratuities, roundtrip motor coach transportation and travel protection insurance. Third and fourth passenger rates are available upon request. A \$500 per cabin deposit will be required to hold your cabin, and the final payment will be due on Aug. 2. Call Linda Hein at (352) 861-9880 to reserve your space.

The trip to Mango's Tropical Café and Dinner Show in Orlando that had been set for Saturday, Jan.

23, will be postponed to later in the year due to safety concerns. Dinner will include appetizers, salad, choice of three entrees, dessert, and coffee or soda. Alcoholic beverages are available for purchase. The bus will depart at approximately 3:30 p.m. and return around 10:30 p.m. The price, contact information, and other pertinent details will be available on our website at a later date.

The Father's Day trip to Sanford to enjoy a three-hour cruise down the St. Johns River on the Barbara Lee will occur Sunday, June 20. A delicious meal will be prepared fresh onboard and served at your table. Meal selections, price, contact information, and other pertinent data will be posted in a future column.

Remember these trips are open only to residents and their guests.



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### The Jewish Club

Nancy Meininger

Just in time for the new year agenda, the new Jewish Club rolls out a new board of directors!

Led by President-elect Rick Carel, with Len Elsner as first vice president, Myra Post as second vice president, Nancy Meininger as corresponding secretary, all of Williamsburg; Gail Levine as recording secretary, Suzie Kline as treasurer, both of Avalon, and six members at large, including Toby Burros, Charlie Calhoun, Linda Kartzinell, Doris Elsner, Michael Baron and Stacy Beomonte, the group promises to pick up the torch and lead the club in exciting new directions!

Kicking off the season with an outdoor get-together, President Carel plans to open the floor to a discussion of what the membership really wants. Members have asked for more social events. We are into it as long as it is outdoors, and safety protocols are in place and followed.

This year, we will spend half our

meeting times at The Lodge at Candler Hills and the other half at the Arbor Conference Center Dance Studios I-III where we have met in the past. Indoor meetings will resume as soon as rules are lifted.

Outdoor events, like brown bag picnics, patio dinners with music, walks through Shalom Park, trivia events, scavenger hunts, golf cart poker runs - are all possible.

We are blessed with a core group of caring members who have reached out and said, "what can I do to help?"

Besides Jewish trivia, the new Jewish Club focuses on Jewish holidays, culture and foods during our social gatherings. We are holding our socially distanced 2021 kick-off meeting Sunday, Jan. 17, 1 p.m. at the pavilion next to the softball field. Bring a lawn chair, golf cart, face mask, beverage, snack, and ideas as we plan safe activities for the year with an emphasis on fun!

Want to join us? We remain committed to core Jewish values of community, kindness and caring. You do not have to be Jewish to attend our meetings.

Contact Rick Carel at (352) 316-9946 or Nancy Meininger at (352) 342-9757.

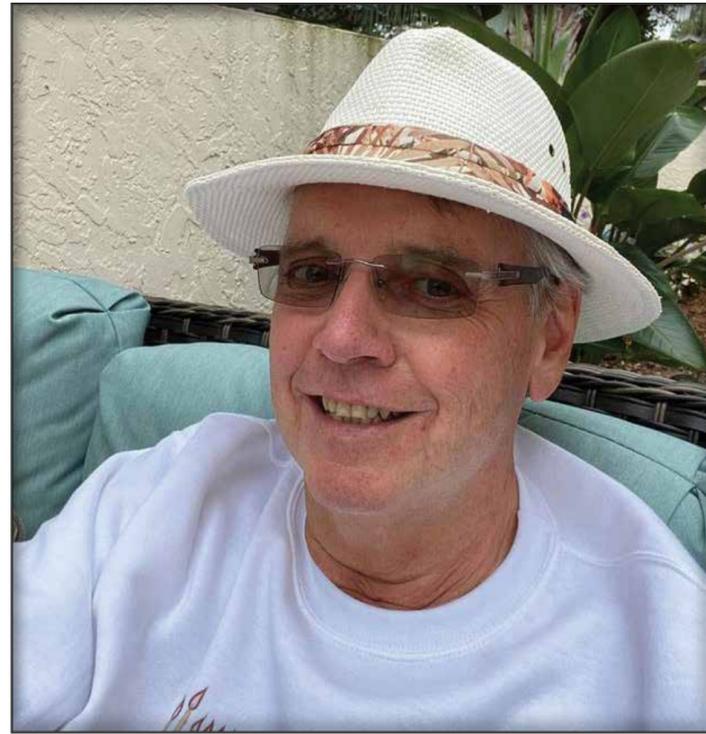


Photo by Jill Carel

New Jewish Club President Rick Carel.



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Photo by Touko Vainio-Kaila

**A portion of the Terra Nostra Garden, located in the Furnas Valley on São Miguel Island, Azores, Portugal.**



**World Traveler**

Bill Shampine

The Portuguese archipelago of the Azores, located about 930 miles northwest of Portugal, consists of nine islands divided into three group settings. The islands were settled by the Portuguese as early as 1427. Because of their location, they became a valuable way-stop in the trade route to and from Europe, America, and India. After being “discovered” in the early 1400s, one of these adventurous souls could foresee their future value. Further, recognizing that there were no large animals on the islands, some of these intrepid explorers brought sheep to the islands and let them loose in order to supply future settlers with a food source. That is long-range thinking! The process of settling the islands was relatively slow, however, as the islands are far from the mainland, and travel in the 15th century was not easy.

The islands were formed about eight million years ago by volcanic and seismic activity. The periodic volcanic eruptions over the centuries grew islands with pretty rugged landscapes. They also left lots of caves and lava tubes, active fumaroles, hot-springs, and an interesting coastline. The volcanic ash and mild climate supported the growth of dense forests and lush vegetation on the land. Although the Azores still look very green,



**Tall Tale Travelers**

Donna Seay

We have contracted for a rally at Lazydays RV Resort, located in Seffner, close to their dealership, at the end of January. Being that it is very close to Tampa, there will be a lot for us to do. Some examples would be Busch Gardens, Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park, the Florida Aquarium, several museums and the Straz Center for the Performing Arts. The Florida Strawberry Festival, located in Plant City, will be opening during our stay. This festival celebrates the strawberry harvest of Eastern Hillsborough County. They have headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, rides, dozens and dozens of food vendors, vendors selling clothing, jewelry, gift items, and household items, and, of course, strawberries and strawberry shortcake. This is sure to be a very long but fun day for us.

If you own any type of camper and are interested in our club, you are cordially invited to our next meeting, which will be Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 3 p.m. in the pavilion by the softball field. If you would like further information, please contact Donna Seay at talltaletravelers@gmail.com or (516) 578-8655.

much of the ancient forests were harvested many years ago for the valuable wood. Today, the green color of much of the land is lush pasture grass to support the cattle industry instead of the historic forests.

The main industries for the islanders are tourism, raising cattle for milk and meat, and fishing. By featuring outdoor activities such as hiking, diving, and whale watching, the islanders are focusing on offering nature tourism. Touring the islands, you will find unspoiled nature, breathtaking landscapes, incredible lagoons, extinct volcanic craters, hot water waterfalls, fumaroles, cows, and much more.

It is easy to understand why the islands are so popular with tourists. The landscapes are beautiful, and, because of the influence of the Gulf Stream, the climate is very mild. The minimum and maximum temperatures in the populated areas range from about 37 to 86 degrees Fahrenheit. Snow can only be found on the tops of the highest mountains, such as Mount Pico, at 7,713 feet.

If you go to the Azores, you must visit the Terra Nostra Garden, located in the Furnas Valley on São Miguel Island. It is gorgeous! The garden dates back to 1775, when American merchant Thomas Hickling fell in love with Furnas and decided to create the perfect relaxation haven. Today, it's a botanist's dream come true, with amazing landscaping showing off hundreds of species of rare and exotic plants. Among them is a spectacular collection of over 600 species of Camellias. In addition, the park contains the Terra Nostra Garden Hotel, known worldwide for its thermal pool. Heated by molten magma underlying the island, the spring feeding the pool has a constant temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit. The water is rich in iron and other minerals, which is highly beneficial for your skin, plus, the warm water will relax you completely, just like a huge hot tub. You should make plans to take a swim when you are there.



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Photo by Roger Bonifield

**Doggonit, Call of the Wild Sports Club did it and club treasurer, Clint Roark, helped make it happen, cooking up some great hot dogs at our cookout last fall.**

## Great Hunting & Fishing Year Planned

By Roger Bonifield

Well, it's a new year, and I can guarantee you, it will prove more exciting and successful than last year. Although we are still not having regular meetings, I hope and pray that we will begin again soon, and we can get back together to share all our great hunting and fishing stories.

The good news is that if you were a paid member in 2020, your dues will carry forward to 2021. If you are interested in getting involved with Call of the Wild Sports Club,

you are more than welcome to join us. Dues are only \$10 per year. We normally meet the first Wednesday of every month, and as soon as we get the approval to start up again, I will give everyone the details. We have a number of other great events throughout the year, from fishing trips to fish fries, so stay tuned for updates.

If you are not yet a member, and would like more information, please don't hesitate to give me a call at (352) 300-3601.

## Five Time Cornhole Champs

By Jim Russell and Bill Ballweg

**OPEN PLAY:** Happy new year! I know all of us are glad to have 2020 in the rearview mirror. 2021 offers us hope that life can begin to return to some form of normal and we can all once again live the lifestyle that our beautiful community has to offer. Cornhole has been a welcome diversion for our club members during these trying times and we're thankful for that. So, come join us each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Veterans Park facility. Advertised start time is 2 p.m. but we begin play as soon as the first 20 players arrive, so come early. Everyone gets to play regardless of when you arrive, no worries there; so sign in as soon as you arrive, and you will be playing shortly. Questions? Contact Open Play Facilitator Jim Russell at jimrussell44@outlook.com or (352) 861-6355.

**MIXED DOUBLES:** We have passed the midway point in the holiday season with two teams separating themselves from the pack. The Teachers (Joe Lawson and Donna Hansen) stand atop of the leader board in first place; in second place are the Rejects (Vickie Foster and Rick Dikeman) only one game behind. To make the end of the season interesting these two top teams will be competing twice (six games at stake) so we can see a flip for the top spot, or the Teachers can secure their position as the mixed league leader. It will be an exciting last couple of weeks.

**MEN'S DOUBLES:** The men's league has two teams leading the

way for the holiday season championship. The Undertakers (Bob Helf and Bill Ballweg) maintain the lead with an unblemished record and look to be the top team in the league. The Ocala Saints (Charles Lemme and Joe Lawson) are only one game behind. Like we witnessed in the mixed league, the two teams have two matches (six games at stake) so there is a chance the Ocala Saints can overtake the Undertakers with strong play in their head-to-head matches. It looks like it will go down to the wire in the men's league.

**WOMEN'S DOUBLES:** A "League of Our Own" was initiated this winter by some enthusiastic women cornhole players. Those women, many of whom had little or no knowledge of the game, came together with more experienced women players to improve their skills and have fun. If you are interested in joining, we meet on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. at the Veterans Park. We are in the planning stages for our winter season which will start on Tuesday, Jan. 5. We intend to offer three leagues - men's playing Tuesdays, at 2 p.m.; women's playing Tuesdays, at 3 p.m.; and mixed doubles playing Thursdays, at 3 p.m. If you are interested in joining our exciting leagues contact - men's and mixed league - Bill Ballweg at waballweg@yahoo.com or for women's league - Vickie Foster at poo2dog@verizon.net. Come and join the fun of playing in our cornhole leagues!



Photo by Vince Stevens

**Five time men's league champions – The Undertakers – Bill Ballweg and Bob Helf.**

## Sharpen Up Your Pool Cues

By Richard Deschenes

2021 is here. Let's hope it is fast-tracked to normal living. The Billiards Club's next meeting with the election of officers is Monday, Jan. 11. We will meet in the Event Room at 4 p.m. There will be a slate of of-

ficers and/or nominations from the floor. In order to vote, you must be a paid member by Sunday, Jan. 10. The sign-up slips are next to our membership box in the far-left corner of the pool room; deposit it

there with your \$5 and email address for 2021 dues.

The team of Rich Aber and Paul Stoecklin won the eight-week fall league in a playoff against Jack Hester and Pat Murphy. Congratulations to them and thanks to the players for participating in a soft re-opening. We are planning for a new year two-person team league starting Tuesday, Jan. 12 for 16 weeks on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. There will be

up to 16 teams, blind draw partners with sign up starting Saturday, Jan. 2 for 32 members. The teams will play three out of five eight-ball, and three out of five nine-ball, one point for each set. Safety protocols are still expected to be in place.

In the meantime, sharpen up your pool cues and plan on some friendly open play games. Hope your holiday season was safe, healthy and fun.



Photo by Fritz

**Rich, Paul, Rich Deschenes (president), Jack and Pat.**



R/C Car Club

Gene Mangold

The R/C Car Club is really enjoying the new metal sun shaded canopies over the tables and the new covered, enlarged driver's stand. Many more club members who are sun sensitive are now able to participate. We have over 35 racers now, many more watching and over 55 cars registered. We are so very grateful to On Top of the World for the wonderful amenity they have provided.

Racing has been moved to Wednesdays and Sundays, at 1 p.m. For more information contact the president, Fred Penichet, at (914) 588-7293 or fredpenichet@msn.com.



Photos by Gene Mangold

The R/C Car Club members, canopies, car track and the new driver's stand.



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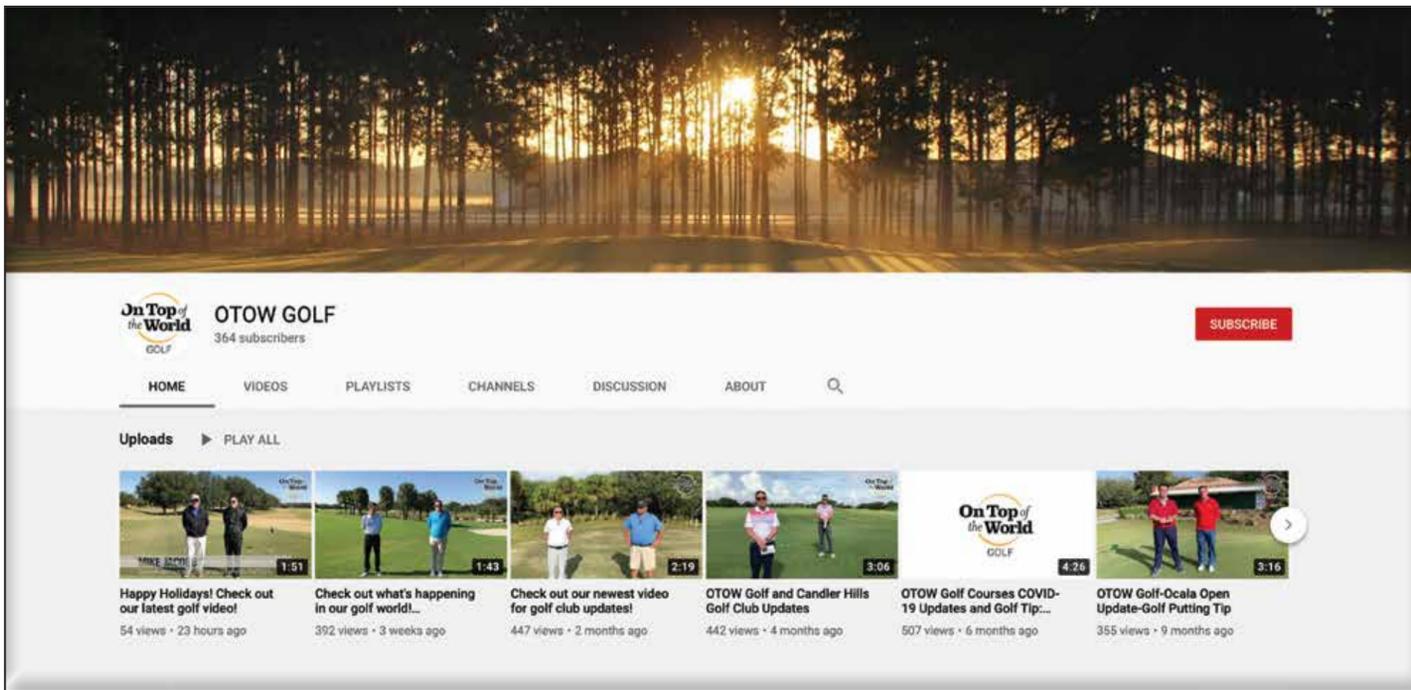
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Happy new year to you and yours from the golf staff. While 2020 has been a challenging year for us all we are looking forward to a tremendous 2021.

We hope to begin instructing golf clinics again in January and if your resolution is an improved golf game then we have the answer for you. Our professional staff has created a wonderful and exciting golf clinic schedule for 2021. The season kicks off Saturday, Jan. 2, with "Putting: Short Range Putts" at the Candler Hills putting green at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. This clinic is \$10 per student. Please register in the Candler Hills Golf Shop no later than Friday, Jan. 1, at 2 p.m. Look for the complete 2021 schedule in both the Candler Hills and On Top of the World Golf Shops.

A friendly reminder from the golf staff that all shop credits will expire Sunday, Feb. 28. All credit winnings to your account will be

posted through the January events. Any winnings during February will be held until the beginning of March to be posted.

Make sure you subscribe to our YouTube.com channel at OTOW Golf. You will get the latest updates on events, golf tips, special merchandise and much more.

We also have an exciting 2021 golf event lineup. We hope to begin running golf events again in January so check with the Golf Shops for the latest updates on all our upcoming events. Here are the two we have scheduled in January.

- Saturday, Jan. 23: Short Course Masters at The Links with 9 a.m. shotgun.
- Saturday, Jan. 30: Snowflake Open at Candler Hills Golf Club with 9 a.m. shotgun.

**World Accolades**

**CANDLER HILLS:** Jim Greig, hole-in-one #17. Virgel Jajalla, eagle #10. Wendy Maxwell, birdie #17. Judie Anderson, eagle #7. Rick Kramer, eagle #7.

**THE LINKS:** Bob Mondore, eagle #3. Garry Gerlach, eagle #7. Tony Loureiro shot his age 78.

**THE TORTOISE & THE HARE:** Su-

san Weirick, hole-in-one #11. Bob Mondore, eagle #16.

Congratulations to all.

**Golf Tip of the Month**

How many of you get frustrated and upset after each missed shot? Golf is a funny game that with one swing can manipulate your attitude and demeanor for not only your round but the remainder of your day. Keep in mind that everyone hits bad shots, yes including tour-

ing professionals. Don't let one swing ruin your round or even your day.

Every round, take a minute to appreciate your surroundings, the birds chirping, the beautiful flowers and trees and the friends you have made playing this wonderful game. Don't let the wonderful things in life pass you by and remind yourself golf is just a game we all enjoy playing.

Have a safe and exciting 2021!

**CURBSIDE LANDSCAPE DEBRIS PICK-UP SCHEDULE**

<p><b>Monday*</b> Americana Village Friendship Park (SW 97th St to 94th St) Friendship Village</p> <p><b>Tuesday*</b> Friendship Colony (SW 93rd La to 90th Pl)</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b> Alendel Candler Hills Friendship Colony (SW 90th St, 82nd Terr, 83rd Ave, 83rd Ct, 83rd Terr, 90th Ct, 89th Terr, 89th Ct Rd)</p>	<p><b>Wednesday (cont'd)</b> Indigo East Larkhill Sanctuary Stonebridge</p> <p><b>Thursday</b> Avalon Providence Williamsburg</p> <p><b>Friday</b> Crescent Ridge/Green Renaissance Park Windsor</p>
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\* Due to volumes, pick-up may extend into Tuesday or Wednesday

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**Ladies 9-Hole Golf**

Russ Smith

As we move into the month of January, the LGA-9 schedule will be on the following Tuesdays:

- Jan. 5: Two Best Ball is a team game where at the end of each hole the two lowest net scores of the team will be recorded as the team score.
- Jan. 12: Low Net is where everyone plays their own ball, and your handicap will be deducted from your total score.
- Jan. 19: Odd Holes is where everyone plays their normal round of golf and we use the

scores on the odd numbered holes towards the game.

Jan. 26: Team Scramble is where everyone tees off, you pick the best drive, and everyone plays from there. You repeat this process until the ball is holed.

Remember you will receive notification from Golf Genius to sign up for Tuesday's play a week in advance. You will sign up through Golf Genius as before, cut off day and time is Sunday, 10 p.m. for the Tuesday event. You will be notified on Monday as to the course and hole you will start play from. You must be at your starting hole by 8:45 a.m. to allow the captain to collect money for weekly game. An air horn will signal the start of play (do not tee off until you hear the

air horn).

As we get colder weather, we are asking that everyone be mindful of the playing conditions and all the ways you can help us keep the course in the best shape possible. Use the rough as much as possible when traveling from teeing area to green and use the 90-degree rule to go to your ball in the fairway. For those of you not familiar with this rule, golfers are required to keep carts in the rough until they are even with a golf ball in the fairway. Only then should the cart leave the rough, turning sharply (90 degrees) to drive straight across to the golf ball. After playing the shot, the cart should return straight back to the rough, until pulling even with your ball again. In this manner, golfers have the convenience of carts but

damage to the course's fairway turf is minimized.

One of the biggest ways to help playing conditions around the greens is to remain 30 feet from the greens at all times with your golf cart. Parking on the path is always the best, but if you have a handicap sticker then you can go no closer than the 30 feet.

The last thing I want to talk about is the out of bounds for both courses. If you hit your ball out of bounds into a resident's yard you need to consider your ball lost. The resident's yards are private property, and you are not allowed to drive your golf cart or walk into these areas to retrieve your golf ball. We ask that everyone please respect each other's property.



**Candler Hills Ladies 18-Hole Golf**

Beth Wolinsky

As 2020 comes to a close, we hope for a better 2021 with a resumption of normal activities in the league. The return of league has been successful with many thanks going to the staff and the golf pros.

A vote was held on four changes to be made to the league. Each proposal passed and will be in effect when the new season begins Friday, Jan. 1. For details on these changes, please refer to the email sent by our president, Shelly Karsnitz, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020.

We welcome a new member to the league. She is Lynn Colomb. Please give her a warm welcome when you see her.

In colder conditions, dressing in layers is the key to comfort on the golf course. The weather can be quite chilly in the morning but usually warms up in the Florida sun. It's easy to shed a layer to be comfortable.

The Candler Hills Ladies Golf Association-18 is open to all residents. If you would like to join the

league, please contact our president, Shelly Karsnitz, at karsnitz1@gmail.com.

Golf is an interesting game and here is an interesting fact. In December 1899, George F. Bryant patented the wooden golf tee. Thank you, Mr. Bryant.

Last, but not least, we wish everyone a happy and healthy new year and believe, achieve and enjoy golf.

**TOES (Individual)**

**Nov. 19, 2020**

Flight 1: 49-Shelly Karsnitz Tie at 54-Christine Giza, Linda Taylor.

Flight 2: Tie at 50-Maria Fournier, Pam Carpenter 53-Judie Anderson Tie at 55-Bertha Myers, Angelita Jinco.

Flight 3: 53-Virginia Madura 55-Pamela Jones Tie at 56-Iro Lisinski, Laurel Rohrer Tie at 58-Carol Clark, Karen Curtis.

Flight 4: 47-DeAnne Green 49-Beth Wolinsky Tie at 54-Sue Fierce, Mary Ann McCourt.

**2 Best Balls (Team)**

**Dec. 3, 2020**

Tie at 136-Christine Giza, Angelita Jinco, Suzanne Sigler, Sue Fierce; Maria Fournier, Virginia Combs, Kate Beaty, DeAnne Green. Tie at 137-Judie Anderson, Bertha Myers, Sandra DeChambeau, Cynthia Gersten; Beverly Ovrebo, Jean Hsu, Laurel Rohrer, Renee Aden.

**Odd Holes (Individual)**

**Dec. 10, 2020**

Flight 1: Tie at 33-Christine Giza, Sandy Snyder.

Flight 2: 31-Angelita Jinco 33-Judie Anderson 34-Eileen Gustavus.

Flight 3: 29-Iro Lisinski 32-Pamela Jones 33-Kate Beaty 34-Vickie Foster.

Flight 4: Tie at 33-Joann Delmar, Cynthia Gersten, DeAnne Green.



**Men's Golf Association**

John Yenne

League play for the Men's Golf Association will continue to operate under current safety measures in 2021.

Unfortunately, our popular Chicken Day is on hold until further notice. Once it is considered safe for large numbers of people to gather together, we will restart it.

Team captains should report to the Golf Shop on Tuesday afternoons or Wednesday mornings prior to play. Remember that face masks are required to enter the Golf Shop. Electronic scorecards will remain in place, and all teams will report directly to their starting tee box instead of the rally flags, where money will be collected. Some events may change prior to the start of the weekly competition; so, stay tuned to your email for last-minute updates.

Current 2020 paid MGA members will have their dues extended through December 2021. In addition, the 2020 MGA board of directors will continue their terms through 2021.

It's been brought to the attention of the board that some players have been stretching the rules. Remember: Golf puts an asterisk on the old saying "practice makes perfect." Do it, but not on the course on the day of stroke play. Rule 7-1B of the Rules of Golf says that a player can be disqualified for practicing on the course on the day competition begins. This includes putting on or

chipping around a green. Use the practice green to warm up - not the course.

**Team Quota**

**Nov. 18/The Links**

0-Terry Hubbartt, Tom Neville, John Owen and Henry Sohl. Tied at -6-Bob Gee, James Gibson, Steve Houston and Bruce Venslavsky; Richard Deschenes, Mike Driver, Larry Gibson and Carl Zeiler. -7-Howard Atherton, John Bauer, Michael Cunningham and Joe Jingco. -9-Larry Cordill, Tom Cummings, Jerry Englar and David Woitek. Tied at -10-Dale Budd, Nick James, Greg McDowell and Tom McHaffie; Robert Anderson, Jon Jackson, Rick Strynar and David Wohlleber. Tied at -14-Douglas Coleman, Brian Wilder, Tim Williams and Ken Zweiback; David Hannasch, Leonard Ruble, James Thompson and Brad Weirick; Vince Dellapenta, Loren Magsam, Ricki Plesea and Paul Snyder.

**Individual Low Net**

**Nov. 25, 2020/The Tortoise & The Hare**

Flight 1: Tied at 70-Joe Moenter, Russell Zile, Joe Wilks. Tied at 75-Jerry Englar, Terry Hubbartt, Brian Wilder, Larry Gibson.

Flight 2: Tied at 74-Dan Goggin, Dale Budd. Tied at 75-Steven Sarkozy, Jim Weaver. 76-Ken Zweiback. 77-Ricki Plesea.

Flight 3: 68-Roy Coombes. 73-Thomas Martinetto. 75-Henry Sohl. Tied at 77-Paul Snyder, David Hannasch. 78-Gregory Dyer.

Flight 4: Tied at 77-Bob Gee, John Snyder. 78-Tom McHaffie. Tied at 79-Leonard Ruble, David Woitek, Joseph Mandala, Carl Zeiler.

Flight 5: 66-Barry Barringer. Tied at 73-Norman Schulze, Joe Polizzotti. 74-Charles Miele. 75-Tom Neville. 76-Al Slach.

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**Ladies 18-Hole Golf**

Susan Yenne

Some play too fast; some play too slow. Some talk too much; some never say much. Some use colorful language; others say darn. Some think they know all of the rules; others are still learning golf etiquette. Some score high; some score low. Some remember to fix divots and rake sand; some don't.

But all are welcome in our league, where the goal is to meet new people, gather with friends, improve our game and most of all, have fun.

We had 18 new members in 2020, bringing our total to 90. Welcome - or welcome back - to Mary Burns, Judy Graham, Laurel Rohrer, Maureen Gingrass, Lynne Dickson, Lorie Anderson, Bobbie Wiener, Sherry Williams, Linda Ryan, Eileen Gustavus, Chris Giza, Debbie Zile, Sandy Snyder, Lisa Free, Karen Jahnke Wiseman, Kathleen Goodwin, Jean Hsu and Mary Ruffner.

Officers for 2021 are Linda Taylor, president; Jill Strey, vice president; Mary Jeannotte, secretary; Lynn Barber, treasurer.

The deadline to sign up to play in the 2021 Player's Championship is Tuesday, Jan. 19 - or until we

have 32 players. Cost is \$5. Sign up in the league book in the Golf Shop. Matches can begin as soon as Monday, Jan. 25.

**Beat the Pro Net Nov. 17, 2020/The Links**

Those beating pro Russ Smith's 79: 70-Connie Sohl, Kathleen Goodwin. 71-Nancy Zielinski. 72-Susan Rhodes, Debby Wilson, Pamela Jones. 73-Ellen Brin. 74-Mary Ruffner, Peggy Wiechmann, Linda Taylor, Lynne Dickson, Iro Lisinski, Linda Blewitt. 75-Bobbie Wiener, Virginia Madura, Vickie Noltenmeyer, Peggy Borro, Antonia Varney. 76-Debbie Zile, Joan Gerbo, Sandy Chase, Angelita Jingco. 77-Yulan Cho. 78-MJ Strelec, May Chin, Mary Jeannotte, Donna Brunell.

**Turkey Trot (4 Clubs and a Putter) Nov. 24, 2020/The Tortoise & The Hare**

Flight 1: 72-Mary Ann Livingston. 73-Beverly Ovrebo. 74-Bobbie Wiener. 76-Chris Giza. Tie at 77-MJ Strelec, Yuhlan Cho, Sandy Snyder. Flight 2: 72-Peggy Borro. 73-Betty McNeeley. Tie 75-Eileen Gustavus, Peggy Ellenberger. Tie at 76-Lilly Gee, Pat Lindstrom, Connie Sohl. Flight 3: 73-Ellen Brin. Tie at 75-Pamela Jones, Nancy Zielinski. 76-Donna Brunell. 77-Liz Pruss. Flight 4: 70-Antonia Varney. 72-Debbie Zile. 74-Susan Yenne. 76-Linda Ryan. 79-Mary Ruffner.

Cunningham. +7-Dave Miller. Flight 3: +8-Joe Pruss. +9-Robert Springmann. Flight 4: +11-Mark Monk. +17-Sam Fox.

With the above scores, it must have been a pretty chilly day to golf. Congratulations goes to Ken Zweiback for his net even round!

For those of you who are looking for more information regarding our league, please visit [www.CHMGA.org](http://www.CHMGA.org).



**Candler Hills Ladies 9-Hole Golf**

Denise Mullen

On play day do you feel anxious? Are you worried about how you will play with your group? Do you get nervous on the first tee because you are playing with new people? Are these reasons that you do not participate?

By definition, anxiety means a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease typically about something with an uncertain outcome.

The best players in the world, when asked, would tell you that managing their nerves is essential to win. Sam Snead once said, "Of all the hazards, fear is the worst!"

Here are some common ways that anxiety can affect your golf game.

- Playing with people you have never played with before and worrying about what they think about you and your ability.
- Worrying about if your personalities will blend - do they talk too much, are they too slow, can they count accurately.
- First tee nerves - will you hit your tee shot on #10 over the natural area in front of the tee box?
- Having other people watch you while you play can really get in your head and cause bad mental self-talk. Whether it is another group at the first tee watching you while your group tees off or the maintenance staff hovering while doing routine course work.
- Do you have a hole on the course that always seems to

give you challenges?

- When you have a partner, and you are playing your worst round ever and keep apologizing for it will put added pressure on you.
- Playing with people who hit it further than you do and then you end up trying to hit the ball harder or swinging out of your shoes, only to top the ball or mishit it offline.
- Knowing that you have had a string of five holes that were played well and then that six inches between the ears starts the inner pressure thoughts of "I need to par this hole" ... "I can't miss this putt" ... "My partner needs me to get on the green and close enough to two putt for a win." You can just feel the anxiety building with this doubtful thinking thus adding more pressure and producing an outcome that will ruin your score.

Only you are in control of changing these thoughts that produce the anxiety. Learning to do this will calm your nerves and help you to become a better player. We hope this will help you to overcome these things and have more confidence in your skills as a golfer.

We invite any new ladies who prefer to only play nine holes to participate in our 9-Hole Play Day Thursdays at Candler Hills Golf Club. Tee times start at 9 a.m. You will need an established handicap to participate. We play many different formats; some are individual events in flights and others will be team events.

Please feel free to email or call Nick ([nick\\_schwander@otowfl.com](mailto:nick_schwander@otowfl.com)) or myself ([denise\\_mullen@otowfl.com](mailto:denise_mullen@otowfl.com)) with any and all concerns or questions you may have. Or call the Candler Hills Golf Shop at (352) 861-9712.



**Candler Hills Men's Golf**

Terry Hoppes

The Tuesday, Dec. 1 game was cancelled due to inclement weather. Now I am just saying that if we were still up north, we would have called in sick to golf in that kind of weather. Amazing what a few years of living in Florida will do to your blood.

**Individual Quota Nov. 17, 2020**

Flight 1: -4-Mike Deahl, Bill Lock. -8-Mike Cunningham, Virgel Jajalla. Flight 2: +2-Joe Jingco. +1-Mori Fierce. 0 Ken Zweiback. -1-Bill Maxwell. -4-Dennis McCourt. Flight 3: -3-Tim Beaty. -4-Gilbert Green, Robert Springmann. -5-Robert Dellapenna, Joe Wong, David Nelson, Brad Best. Flight 4: +3-Tim Kennedy. 0-George Brombacher, Mike Campbell. -1-Edwin Vilorio. -2-Sam Fox.

**Team 2 Best Balls Net Nov. 24, 2020**

-21-Bill Lock, James Dewey, Robert Springmann, Edwin Vilorio. -15-Tom Presnick, Gilbert Green, Brad Best, David Nelson. -13-Lonnie Page, David Vermilya, Robert Dellapenna. Bill Searight, Bill Wignall, Michael Cunningham, Joe Pruss, Frank Esposito.

**Low Net Dec. 8, 2020**

Flight 1: +3-Tomas Lowe. +6-Bill Wignall. Flight 2: E-Ken Zweiback. +1-Mike

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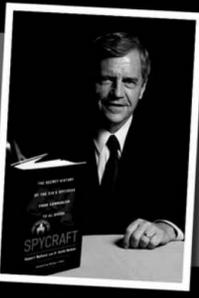


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## Wellness Walk at Sholom Park

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020**

**Meet at the Pavilion at 9 AM**  
7110 SW 80th Ave., Ocala, FL 34481

Join the fitness team from On Top of the World for a wellness walk in beautiful Sholom Park.

A brief discussion on posture and gait mechanics will precede the walk.

We will venture around the large loop through the Enchanted Forest, which is approximately 3/4 of a mile. Short cuts are available.

Please be mindful of social distancing and bring a mask to wear for when this might not be possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 854-8707 EXT. 7532



Photo by Susan Yenne

Shelly the gopher tortoise peeks out from its burrow on The Links.

# Shelly. Snoopy. Freddie.

By Susan Yenne  
World News Writer

Golfers on The Links have various names for the gopher tortoise that has dug its burrow between the rocks halfway down the right side of hole #9.

Most days, he or she seems to be sunning outside the burrow. When a golfer approaches, he or she quickly moves inside, barely peeking out. Other animals, probably snakes, also live in the burrow so please socially distance and be careful.

Unfortunately, many golfers think they need to feed the tortoise, often throwing banana and orange peels or even crackers near the burrow opening. Gopher tortoises are herbivore scavengers, preferring grasses and legumes naturally growing in sandy, long-leaf pine habitations.

Also, there is no need to give the tortoise water since it gets the amount it needs from the grasses and leaves it eats. It will avoid standing water unless there is a drought.

If you don't see the tortoise while golfing one day, don't worry. They are known to wander the four acres surrounding their burrow.

They are a threatened species, most common to Florida and Georgia, so show them proper respect.

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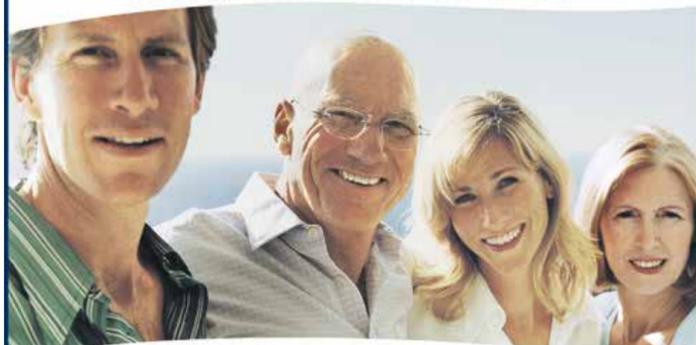
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**Softball**

Tom Sheridan

Jimmy Russo just looks like a manager. He's there in the third base coach's box, arms folded. A calm look on his face. He'll wave a runner home or stop him in his tracks with hand signals.

Russo looks like a manager because he is: the perennial pilot of softball teams here at On Top of the World. He'll also chase fly balls in right field for his team.

It also should be said that Jimmy Russo is the oldest active player in our community's intramural softball league.

Russo lived for years in On Top

of the World but then moved to Oak Run. He's played here since the league began. Before that, he joined other On Top of the World guys in the Golden Seniors league in northeast Ocala.

"I've been blessed," Russo said. "I never thought I'd still be playing. Thank God."

Russo said he'll play "as long as my legs hold up. I enjoy the guys, the competition and the fun."

He retired to Ocala in 1993 from Farmingville, New York, and was "surprised to find softball" here. He'd played ball all his life - stickball, baseball and more - and was delighted to be able to keep playing.

Russo's close friend Nick Lagattuta isn't far behind. Lagattuta is the league's second-oldest active player. Nevertheless, he remains a

skilled and dangerous hitter, able to slap the ball into undefended territory.

"Yeah, I was here at the beginning, too," he said. "And the good Lord keeps me here. I look at these younger guys and I remember what it was like. Over the fence! Wow!" he said smiling. "I'm glad they let me keep playing."

He and his wife Toni have lived in On Top of the World for 30 years.

There's a softball saying that goes like this: "You don't quit playing because you're old; you're old because you quit playing."

On Top of the World softball players range in age and play at all different skill levels. Board of director's chair Jeff Thomas said the board works to balance the talents of each team to assure great competition. The league offers guys

an opportunity for fun, fellowship and friendly competition with year-round play.

The league, which had six teams for the fall season, began its winter play in early January. With the return of On Top of the World's many snowbirds and new residents the league may increase the number of teams. The spring/summer season begins in April.

Games are played Monday and Wednesday mornings. There is a general practice and skills assessment held each Thursday morning. New players can join the league at any time and are asked to attend up to several Thursday practices before being assigned to a team.

For information about softball at On Top of the World, contact Tom Sheridan at tomsheridan.fl@gmail.com.

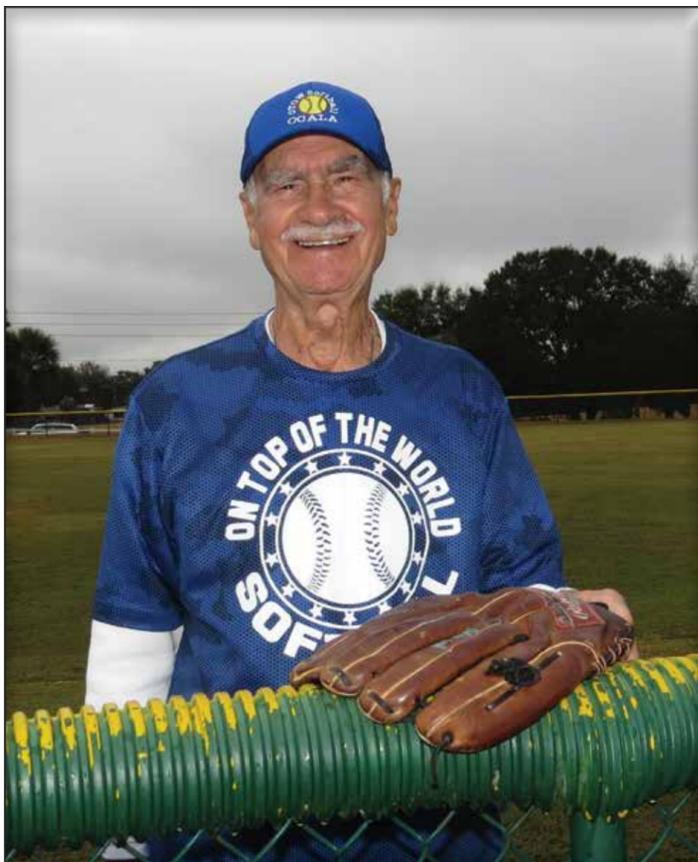


Photo by Tom Sheridan

Jimmy Russo is On Top of the World's oldest active softball player.



Photo by Tom Sheridan

Nick Lagattuta catches during a game.

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**Tennis**

**Jorge Privat**  
(352) 387-7539

Happy new year everyone! As things get better and more restrictions are lifted, I hope we will be able to organize other activities, socially and tennis related. I definitely wish to revive a "tennis ladder" probably on Thursdays instead of the round robin, so everyone can participate and find a competitive game at every level of play. I would also like to enlist the help of at least four volunteers, two men and two women to form a committee that will create and organize some fun activities that everyone can enjoy.

On a worldwide level, the first "major" tournament of the year is scheduled to take place in Australia in mid-January. I hope you all can get to watch some tennis at the highest level.

And, at this time, I would like to welcome all the new players who have joined our community in the last two or three months. You are all a great addition to our tennis community and hope to see you on the courts as often as you can make it.

I want to offer you a couple of tips as I usually do in an effort to improve your game.

**Tennis Tip of the Month**

**DO NOT MURDER THE BALL:** There is at least one in every tennis club: the slam-bang, neck-or-nothing player who hits every ball as if he wants to batter it to smithereens. He has a hard time understanding why many players don't want to play with him. He thinks he is playing the game the way it is supposed to be played. What he may never know is that people dislike playing with him for the simple reason that he hits the ball too hard. What a tennis player wants is a duel of drive and counter drive - a chance to hit some balls and keep on hitting them - some running and some maneuvering. What he gets against a slugger is a lot of work picking up balls. Sluggers are the pariahs of the tennis courts because they hit virtually nothing except aces and errors. Mostly errors. There

are no rallies. You hit one ball to a slugger, and then you walk into position to start the next point. He never knows where the ball is going. He habitually sacrifices control for speed, and nobody enjoys playing with a man who lacks control. Even tournament players know that it is useless to wallop a drive with their full strength because they can't control its flight.

**EASY DOES IT:** Although the man who murders every ball is an annoyance or a joke to other players around his club, he differs only in degree from most of his club mates. They don't realize it, but nearly all of them make the same mistake he does, to a less glaring degree. They hit too hard. Ask any club pro or any high school coach and he will tell you the same thing, the besetting fault of the average player is hitting too hard. Nearly all once-a-week tennis enthusiasts try to use a racquet as a battering ram instead of a precision instrument.

How about you? Haven't you found that you frequently beat yourself through failure to control the course of your shots. Are you driving ball after ball a foot or two into foul territory? Are you smacking one into the back fence or the bottom of the net every now and then? If so, the reason is almost certainly that you're hitting too hard to be accurate.

To cure all this, the prescription is simple: Relax. Take it easy. Forget about trying to hit aces. The way to beat your friends and the way to enjoy tennis is to hit a medium paced, with control. If you slow down your drive a bit, take a full back swing, and a full follow through, you'll find yourself placing the ball where you want it. You'll also find yourself having more fun. The boys who go into tantrums and apoplexy on a tennis court, who throw racquets over the fence, who spend half their time hating the game and their partners and themselves are the boys who murder the ball and therefore fail to control it. If they could relax and think ahead of the next move by the opposition, and make fewer errors, the whole atmosphere on the court would change and everyone would enjoy the game more. Just remember that in all sports, "easy does it."

See you on the courts!



**Shuffleboard**

**Walter Lamp**

Early December 2020 was originally scheduled to be the final determinant for choosing the local candidates to compete in the summer Senior Games in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in June. Well, no competition now or next summer. We all know the reason for this cancellation. We had three members from our club, who were to defend their gold medals - John Mataya, Paul Hodges and Darryl Kenyon - but who will not have the opportunity to do so now. But they all still compete at different levels here in Florida. We can only hope for a revival of the games in June 2023.

Our club still continues to have

their complete schedule intact, except for an occasional rain-out. Introduction to shuffleboard will still be offered on the second Saturday of the month at the new courts at 11 a.m. If you are interested in learning how to play the game, we invite you to come down to the courts. We will go over the rules, scoring, safety and the basics of shooting the discs. Open-toed footwear is not permitted.

Our courts have been closed for much needed repair. If everything goes according to plan, the courts are scheduled to re-open Friday, Jan. 1.

**November 2020 Men/Women**

Monday a.m.: Nick Dreimiller/Nancy Dreimiller. 30+ Club-Rod Shepherd. Tuesday p.m.: Lou Fisher/Nancy Chatham & Jane Boyer. Thursday a.m.: Phil Werner/Annette Hodges.



**Pickleball**

**Tom West**

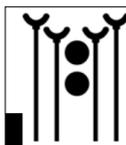
It has been a busy month so let us get to it. The Trilogy Classic Open Tournament has taken place and our players did well. It is nice to see the top pickleball club represented. Our new club name was apt because congratulations are in order to Steve Gardner for taking a gold medal for singles. Dave Smith snared a silver medal for second place in singles. We also had our power couple; Usha and Joe Vargas take a silver medal for mixed doubles over 50 class. Not to be outdone, Joanne Vernieri and Mike Schmitt took silver in mixed doubles over sixty. Rounding it out was Mark D'addario and myself grabbing a gold medal for over 50 men's doubles. In looking at our club's success in this tourney I feel confident in saying that On Top of the World indeed has some great players and we can definitely hold our own in competition.

We had our end of the year meeting Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020. There should be some new faces on the Pickleball Club board. Several board members are stepping down and we would like to thank

them for their service, as well as extend our gratitude to the new board members who have volunteered to keep things running smoothly. Our thanks also go to the board members who are staying on. Members may notice that I have resigned, and I would like to thank everyone for their kind words and encouragement. Someone else will also be writing this column eventually, but I may jump in and write occasionally if asked to. Everybody needs a break now and then, right?

I am also going to ask the new board to allow me to form a committee and create an events chairperson position to try to manage some events for the club. It is my contention that with almost 300 members we can have a lot more activities for our members. This would include teaching events, all kinds of tournaments such as mixed doubles, ladies only tournaments, singles, etc. You get the idea. That is assuming the members are interested in such events. I would like to play a part in having these events. The only way we will find out if the members want these sorts of things is to see if we get participants. I think we will.

In conclusion I want to wish everyone a happy, safe, and prosperous new year. I look forward to seeing all of you on the courts.



**Ladies Shuffleboard**

**Lois Nix**

Happy 2021! Hopefully, you enjoyed your holidays with family and friends. Shuffleboard has been a popular outdoor sport in our community since the 80s. Residents have different choices to play - we have a co-ed club and ladies only club. Schedules are posted on the bulletin boards in the Veterans Park. We invite all men and women to join us. Our season is from September to April, or September to May. You do not need to know how to play. Paul Hodges teaches the game on the first Saturday of the

month at 9 a.m. The December 2020 shuffling schedule was interrupted by court repairs. We are looking forward to shuffling again the first week of January. What a great way to start the new year!

We will continue shuffling on Wednesdays, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.; and Mondays, at 5:30 p.m.

In November 2020, we lost one week of shuffling because of weather, so we shuffled nine games (three winners for first place won seven games; four winners for second place won six games; and five winners for third place won five games). 30-plus had nine who scored.

Check the bulletin board at the shuffleboard courts to see who is on the list. As we start 2021, we hope we all will remain safe. Happy shuffling.

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January 2021					
Recreation Center Ballroom					
TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 AM	Chair Yoga* Maureen		Chair Yoga* Haley		Chair Yoga* Renu
10:00 AM	Balanced Body* Dennis		Move To Improve* Larry		Balanced Body* Dennis
11:00 AM	Strength & Stretch* Tucker		Zumba® Gold* Kiti		Strength & Stretch* Tucker
*Face masks are mandatory					
Recreation Fitness Center Hours: Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 7 PM; Saturday 7 AM - 7 PM; Sunday 9 AM - 5 PM Recreation Fitness Center orientations and balance assessments are free by appointment only. Please call 854-8707 Ext. 7531 to schedule.					
Arbor Conference Center (Dance Studios I, II, III)					
TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 AM	Yoga* Radha			Yoga* Kathy	
*Face masks are mandatory					
Arbor Fitness Center Pool					
TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6:00 AM	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
7:00 AM	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk	Water Walk
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Deep Water Fitness Class***	Shallow Water Fitness Class***	Deep Water Fitness Class***	Shallow Water Fitness Class***	Deep Water Fitness Class***
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Open	Shallow Water Fitness Class***	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Shallow Water Fitness Class***	Open
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming	Closed for Cleaning	Lap Swimming	Lap Swimming
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Aqua Aerobics Club	Shallow Water Fitness Class***	Aqua Aerobics Club	Shallow Water Fitness Class***	Aqua Aerobics Club
1:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Open	Water Volleyball 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Open	Water Volleyball 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Open
Open Swim: Saturdays 7 AM - 8:30 PM; Sundays 9 AM - 7 PM For pool inquiries, please call (352) 854-8707 Ext. 7639. *** Fee-based class					
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**Fit Tips**

**Larry Robinson**  
(352) 387-3571  
larry\_robinson@otowfl.com

**Well, Well, Wellness ... New Year Tips**

We know that exercise is extremely important for older adults; however, the other dimensions of wellness are equally important. In addition to being physically fit, we also need to nurture our intellec-

tual, emotional and spiritual well-being. A lifestyle that is both active and enriched will best support optimal aging. Here are three easy wellness tips to get you started on the right track this New Year.

**FIT TIP #1:** Eat something colorful every day - the more color you have in your diet, the more "real" food you will consume. Processed foods are typically loaded with sugar, salt and a host of chemicals. This increases calorie intake and decreases nutrient value. Ditch the boxes and packages and load up on

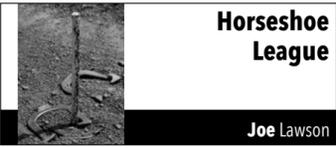
colorful veggies and fruits!

**FIT TIP #2:** Get sunlight every day - if you are outdoors it is likely you are engaged in some type of activity. This provides your body with some much-needed time off the recliner. Green space and sunlight do wonders for boosting mood and getting some vitamin D.

**FIT TIP #3:** Cultivate a positive mindset - learn to recognize what influences your attitude both positive and negative. A resilient person knows that life is hard sometimes; acceptance of this in

addition to finding ways to boost your happiness is a great way to shift your mindset. This past year was certainly a challenging one, but a positive mindset looks forward to seeing the possibilities for a bright future!

**BONUS TIP:** Be sure to take part in "Wellness Around the World" through the Recreation Center and Arbor Fitness Centers. Stop by the fitness desk at either location and discover how you can bring wellness into your world!



**Horseshoe League**

**Joe Lawson**

We want to welcome back all our snowbird players. We are scheduled to start a winter league Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 10 a.m. Our league plays three games each week. The league is also handicapped to give each player (whether a new player or just a little older player) the chance to be competitive with the better players (the same as golf or bowling).

Our games consist of a total of 40 shoes per each game. Players under the age of 70 throw from

about 37 feet; while those over 70, along with the ladies throw from about 30 feet. Each week we draw chips to decide who will be playing on each pit. There will be four players assigned to each pit. The loser at each end after 40 shoes will walk to the other end to play another opponent. After this game the two players who have not played each other, play. Our scores are recorded after each game. Each week the handicap is redone so it is always up to date.

The board members returned from the tri-county league meeting at The Villages Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 and were told that the tri-county league will have 11 different teams entered. Tri-county is made up of different retirement com-

munities with The Villages having four teams. Our team will play each team once and will have one bye week for a 11-week season. These games are every Thursday with a home and away schedule that will start Thursday, Jan. 7.

We are still looking for anyone who would like to come try throwing horseshoes; and we will offer instruction to assist any player. We have open practice each Tuesday starting at 10 a.m. Come meet and make new friends.

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**Ballet Club**

Eugenie Martin

It is that time of year again, the time to make, and sometimes break, new year's resolutions. What resolutions did you make? Balance the budget; cut out sweets; or perhaps get into better shape? Losing weight and becoming more fit are two popular ones that many of us make, and that includes me. Well thank heavens, because at On Top of the World, we have plenty of options that help with both weight and fitness. Whether you do it on your own or with a group, exercise always improves fitness, and sometimes helps with weight.

For me, and those like me, dancing ballet steps accompanied by beautiful music, done with other dancers, is a preferred form of exercise. Ballet can be done alone, especially by professionals, but in

classes like ours, it is a group form of exercise. We learn together and dance together. Usually no one dances alone, unless it is the teacher marking steps and routines, or a dancer who is particularly good at something demonstrating for the class.

We have four classes each week, all traditional ballet classes containing a standing stretch, classical ballet barre, and routines done in the center of the floor. The following classes are held in the Arbor Conference Center Ballet Room:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays: 1 to 2:15 p.m.
- Fridays: noon to 1:15 p.m.
- Saturdays: 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Newcomers do not need ballet clothes to start, just exercise clothing and socks for the feet. And a mask and bottle of water, of course. If you are interested in joining our classes, please call me at (352) 854-8589.

Happy dancing and happy new year!



**Sidekicks Western Dance**

Paula Shira

Happy new year to everyone. Sidekicks had a rousing holiday dance to finish out our 2020 dance year. We boogied with Rudolph, ran grandma over with a reindeer, rocked with jingle bells and hopefully put a little holiday in our hearts.

We are excited by the response we have received for our newest beginner class. The class starts on Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 4 p.m. in the Recreation Center Ballroom. We are using a reservation system, because of the limitations in place, but there are still a few spots available. If you are interested in giving Sidekicks a try, please email otoworldsidekicks@gmail.com or call Paula at (772) 359-4183. This is a weekly 45-minute class.

For the rest of our club, we will continue to have our scheduled dancing the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. We have been averaging 10 dances in an hour of dancing with a little break in the middle. Our dancers get the agenda in advance so they can review the dances we will be doing by visiting [pattern dancers.wixsite.com/sidekicks](http://pattern dancers.wixsite.com/sidekicks). We always do a

walk through (or two or three) before we dance.

Our main upcoming dance dates are Tuesdays, Jan. 12 and 26. We are using the off weeks to review dances, try out some new dances, and to offer "workshop Tuesdays" where we focus on a single dance so everyone who wants to be able to do the dance has a chance to learn it. All of this is of course in anticipation of the day when all our club members can be on the floor at the same time again.

Watch for us on the outside ring of The Town Square on the weekends. You might see a large circle with all of us doing the same dance or you could see us break up and do different dances to a single song. We encourage our dancers to listen to music and get up and give a dance a try.

The priority of Sidekicks is to have fun and we sure do have a lot of fun dancing together. If we learn some dances along the way, even better. The Sidekicks circle is never complete without each and every one of you and there is always room for more.

Please stay safe, follow all the protocols in place, and dance like a toddler. Not only do they dance as if no one is watching, they don't even need music to dance!

Remember, dancing is not only fun ... it is good for you. Dance every chance you get!



**New Dancin' On the Top**

Arlo Janssen

The New Dancin' On the Top officers wish you the best for 2021. We want you to be safe and well! We want you to enjoy dancing when it returns in full force to our great community. Please watch for any changes to our New Dancin' On the Top calendar.

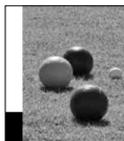
A great big "thank you" to all those club members who have volunteered to help with our past and future dances. Our club provides dancing for everyone - ballroom, waltz, meringue, line, free style, slow, pattern dancing, etc.

The New Dancin' On the Top club membership cards are here and are available for our club members. Preparations are going on for our 2021 dances; however, there will be

no Valentine's Day dance. Our team is ready and anxious to go dancing!

Keep checking for published dance flyers that you will see on the bulletin board later this winter with these exciting themes along with ticket sale dates for each of our dances. Resident IDs will be required at the time of ticket purchase and for entry into the Recreation Center Ballroom on our dance nights.

For club membership, ticket information, what the club is about, or if you want to help with our dances, please contact Jack or Jean Hester (919) 291-8542, (919) 669-6919 or [hestermulch@aol.com](mailto:hestermulch@aol.com); or Donna Cottrell at (410) 591-7899. We are looking for volunteers to back up Jack and Jean as president and Donna as secretary/communication. Please call Jean or Donna if interested. The New Dancin' On the Top Club is open to all residents. So, keep on dancing into the great year 2021.



**Bocce**

Micki Malsch

This is how we roll! League play is on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. Masks or face coverings are mandatory for league players. Dues are \$5 per player and cover the cost of liability insurance. This entitles you to play as many times as you want when league or open are played. Any league representative can give you the form to fill out and collect your dues. Open players are required to pay dues.

Open bocce is played on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Please arrive a few minutes early so that a count can be taken and the numbers of players per court can be decided upon. Restrictions

have been lifted and all six courts are being utilized. Mandatory social distancing is in effect for open bocce, masks or face coverings are recommended. Social distancing guidelines will affect the number of players per court.

Open bocce is a good opportunity to practice or learn the game. Anyone who shows up can play. Teams are determined by the luck of the draw. This is your chance to watch and learn or play, however as a new player, once you have played with the league on three occasions you will be expected to join the league and sign a Release and Hold Harmless consent form.

A directory is in the storage unit which contains an alphabetical list of all members. Please make sure you have entered your name and contact information.

All are welcome to watch and learn or play. Until we roll again ...

**On Top of the World NEWS**  
UPCOMING PUBLICATION  
February Issue  
Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021

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**R/C Flyers**  
**John Workman**

Happy new year everyone! The R/C Flyers managed to hold their December 2020 meeting outdoors at the flying field amid cool temperatures and occasional misty rain. Why did we go to so much trouble? It was officer election day; that and a couple of by-law chang-

es and field rule adjustments. All went well and the officers were reelected to continue serving. We now have two safety officers (the by-law change) and four additional pilot stations to alleviate crowding during busy times. The additional stations also allow pilots to stand closer the arrival end of the runway, improving both perspective and depth perception for landings. Membership stands at 173 and renewals for 2021 are over 60% as of Dec. 1, 2020. Hopefully 2021 will be a better

year and we will be able to return to our usual schedule of events by the fall. The grass runway is growing in and ought to be usable by then also. January in Florida is one of the reasons many of us moved here. The temperatures are usually well within our "comfort zone" for flying. Compared with where I used to live, the average daily high temperature difference is around 30 degrees. For others from farther north the difference is even greater. That, plus the sunny skies and

typically drier weather we have all become used to add up to increased enjoyment of our hobby. Winter was building season and now has become a more pleasant flying season instead. That is doubly convenient since so few of us do much building any longer. And that trend has been made possible by the continuing advancement of almost-ready-to-fly models available at reasonable prices. This is truly the Golden Age for R/C flying.



**Co-Ed Recreational Softball**  
**Sherry Winn**

Community Co-Ed Recreational Softball is truly what our name suggests. It is open to all residents and 16-or-older visitors to their homes on our scheduled Saturday mornings. Most have their own gloves and some bats, but don't worry, we have extras. We have a great core group who understand that they are not accountable to specific teams, so our numbers vary weekly and are balanced almost equally between men and women. We have fielded teams from nine to 16 players, so as you can see, we are adaptable to allow everyone who attends the opportunity to play. This also allows participants to establish team and social relationships with like-minded people. This past month, thanks to Dave Rearick, we had one Tuesday morn-

ing batting practice which we hope to repeat more regularly in the new year. Coach Joe Lawson continues to offer individual pointers to each player at bat. What's even better is that all of our more skilled players support, guide and encourage newer players who continue to amaze themselves with how quickly their muscle memory returns or how they pick up new techniques. Remember, we all respect that our aging bodies cannot perform the way our minds think we could in our 20s or 30s, so we continue to warm-up, stretch, then make accommodations for restrictions. As facilitator for the Co-Ed Community Recreational Softball group, I'm grateful for the support and participation of all our players, coach Joe, and assistants like Kevin Jensen from the men's softball league. New or interested players, please feel free to call me at (315) 528-8499. Featured player and most improved for December 2020 is Bernie Bossert.

## 'Bunco for Babies' Fundraiser

By Michelle Malsch

The fifth annual Bunco for Babies fundraiser will be held Saturday, March 27. The location has been changed to the Arbor Conference Center. The time will remain the same as posted on your tickets. Please hold onto your tickets as they will be honored at that time. Bunco is a fun game where no skill is required - if you can roll three dice you can play the game. There are four players per table. Four games of six sets will be played. Following the first two games, a brief intermission will be held, and players will switch part-

ners at their table at that time. Tickets are \$25 and include lunch, cash prizes for the Bunco game categories, and numerous door prizes. A 50/50 raffle will be held as well. Doors open at 10 a.m. All tickets have been sold at this time, however, please check back with me two weeks prior as sometimes tickets become available. For further information, please call Michelle Malsch (Micki) at (352) 615-2790. All proceeds benefit the March of Dimes March for Babies. Please make sure to check the World News for updated information regarding this event.

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## People's Choice Award

By Connie Filip

Congratulations to ShutterBug Tom Murray for winning this year's People's Choice Award. Last month, residents had the opportunity to vote for their favorite photo in our annual contest.

Tom was born in Portland, Maine, spent much of his life in Maine and kept his down-east accent to prove it. He has a special affinity for the lighthouses of his youth and searches out opportunities to capture them. He has photographs of over 15 different Maine lighthouses in his collection.

In order to capture this one, he had to climb down a steep set of stairs and onto the granite boulders below the lighthouse. He remembers taking at least 10 exposures as the sun set.

A guideline he always uses is the "rule of thirds." As he composes his shot, he mentally divides the scene into nine equal squares (think tic-tac-toe) and then places the most interesting object where two of the lines intersect. This always results in a more visually pleasing photograph than placing it dead center.

His was definitely one of the most dramatically lit photographs in this year's ShutterBugs annual photo contest. The sunset colors he captured were spectacular against the rugged Maine coastline.

Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse is located within Acadia National Park in Maine. It marks the entrance to Bass Harbor and Blue Hill Bay.

It was completed in 1858, after Congress appropriated \$5,000 for its construction. Then, it was lit each evening by the lighthouse keeper with kerosene, but was converted to electricity in 1974. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

The U.S. Lighthouse Service used to be in charge of the lighthouses,

and in 1939 it became the Coast Guard. In the years since, ships' captains have used technology to safely chart their courses. There are still about 850 lighthouses remaining in the U.S. but not all of them are needed, and the number being maintained is expected to shrink. So, we thank you Tom for doing your part to preserve their memory for future generations!

To see the photos submitted in our contest this year and previous years, please visit [www.otowspc.com](http://www.otowspc.com).

For more information about the ShutterBugs, contact our club president Gary Uhley, at (352) 854-8536 or [gsuhley@gmail.com](mailto:gsuhley@gmail.com).



Photo by ShutterBug Tom Murray

### Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse.

## A Year of Progress

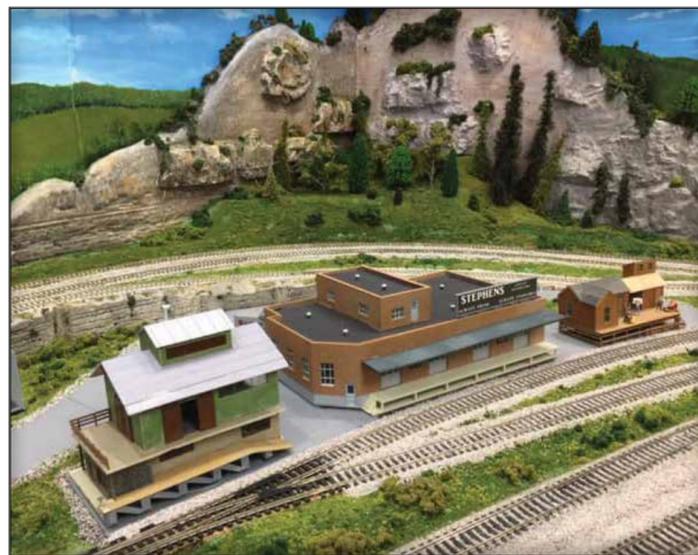
By David Cranmer

For the Model Railroaders Club, 2020 was both challenging and gratifying. We started the year with no display and an empty room in the Hobby Building. Working alone and in small groups, the club was able to complete the infrastructure for the HO and G scale layouts and has been working on laying the track and building the scenic ... making the display come alive.

If you missed the club's open house last month, the HO layout theme is set sometime in the 50s/60s when the trains were powered by both steam and diesel. The layout starts with a small rural town of Franklin, Pennsylvania - complete with trolley. The route continues around the room with an industrial area, a coal mine, a lumbering operation and ends in a railyard. The larger G scale trains run on a platform in the center of the

room. The 2021 slate of officers was elected at the club's December 2020 meeting: President Jim Lynam; Vice President Al Lohr; Secretary Joe Limanowski; Treasurer Charlie Vartanian; Board Member Bernie Bossert. Outgoing board members David Seay (vice president) and Jerry Mucci (secretary) were recognized for their service.

The Model Railroaders Club is always looking for new members and you are welcome to join us. The layout is located in a room in the center of the Hobby Building. Club members work on the layout during the week and run trains on Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m. Our meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. at the Hobby Building Event Room. Visit us on Facebook (OTOW Model Railroad Club).



Photos by David Seay and Barbara Cain

Model Railroaders progress February (below) through October 2020 (above).





As I look around my home, I realize we have a lot of art and artistic artifacts adorning our walls and shelves. As an artist and avid estate sale lover, I have purchased some interesting objects and have them on display to look at. Some of our art is quite old and was purchased by us at auction and art galleries. Our walls are filled with a mixture of paintings by Dali, Picasso, Miro and many others including my own. It might seem a bit egotistical to have my work together with such famous people, but I keep them on separate walls and what better way to evaluate technique, color and composition for future reference?

We all have enough of our work in closets, the garage and under the bed and if we are lucky, on other people's walls. As I look at my paintings, I find I like most of them but there is always that one thing I might have done differently. It seems we are our worst or best critics.

Our group has some amazing artists. I am in awe of the talent and love to see the growth of people who are new to painting. So



Photo by Anne Merrick

**A wall of art.**

many people say, "I can't draw a straight line" and this is, of course, the wrong sort of denial. Most of us don't want to draw a straight line except occasionally. The joy and sense of accomplishment from drawing and painting is worth trying to do it. It doesn't matter how you start or what it looks like at first, you know it will get better and our group is very helpful with hints and suggestions.

In January, the Art Group is hav-

ing its bi-annual show of members' paintings in the lobby at Master the Possibilities. It's always fun for us to show our work and you will see fun and interesting works of art, many of which may be for sale. If those you see are not for sale we have many works at home that we will be happy to show you. Take down the name of the artist and contact me at (352) 732-0706 and I will point you in the right direction. Leave a message and I will get back

to you.

A fair number of us have been going to the Art Room, wearing masks and staying socially distanced. It is not ideal but is giving the group some continuity. Earlier in shutdown folks would send me photos of work done at home and I would send them on for everyone to enjoy.

Please look at our work as you visit Sid's Coffee Shop & Deli or are in the lobby for classes. We appreciate it.



The Sewing Bees hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and are looking forward to a much better new year! Hopefully we can all finally get together again!

The Bees took December off as we have loads of quilt kits but many agencies are not open as yet. We are all set for 2021 and hope to see all our friends again.

We've had many wonderful donations of material and we thank each and every one of our donors! Currently we are in need of cash

donations to purchase the batting needed for our quilts. Donations can be mailed to me at 8387 SW 84th Loop, Ocala, Florida 34481 or they can be dropped off to the hive any Thursday, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Thank you in advance.

Our mission is to provide comfort for the abused, abandoned, and neglected children of Marion County. Your donations all year long help us to do just that. Stop by our hive on any Thursday in the Hobby Building Art Room, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. We would be happy to show you our creations made with love for the children. You may find our club is just what you have been looking for to round out your week.

Please contact Kathy Nardone at (352) 300-3063 or Marsha Schneer at (813) 920-3487 with any questions or concerns.

May the new year be prosperous for us all!

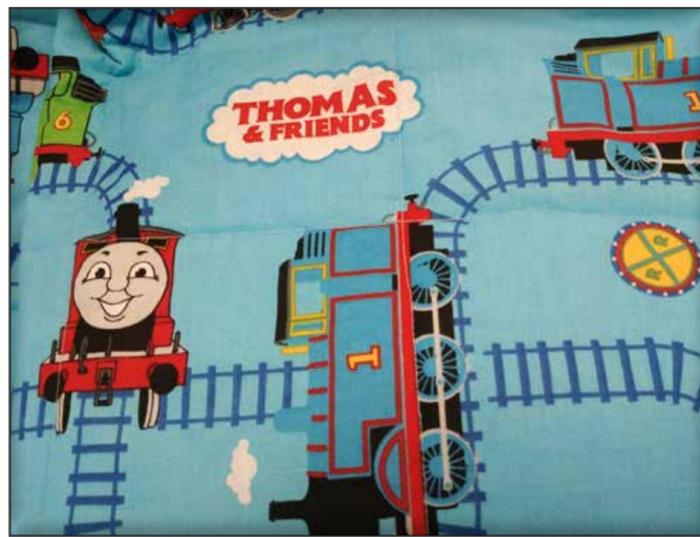


Photo by Linda Lohr

Detail of a Thomas the Train quilt to be donated.

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**ShutterBugs Photography**

Connie Filip

ShutterBugs are proud to present our intermediate winners from the photo contest held in November 2020.

Thanks to all the ShutterBugs who entered their photos and to the readers who checked our website to see them at [www.otowspc.com](http://www.otowspc.com).

Our first place winner, Gail Schultz, tells us that she took her photo at the Biltmore in Asheville, North Carolina. They were walking in the gardens. When she stepped onto this veranda her first thought was "I sure would like to have one of these at my house." She liked the setting because it had so many different textures and lines. As a quilter, she likes textures. The picture has depth and the shadow lines from the wood overhang draw your eyes forward. There's something very satisfying about the repetition in her photograph.

Dave DeAngelis took second place with his photo from Bradley Beach, New Jersey.

He says, "It honestly took the patience of a fisherman to capture this impressive, crashing wave." He used a single shutter speed and took many photos before selecting this one. Dave noted that there's an additional thought behind his photo: the fisherman depicts a state of peace, while surrounded by turmoil.

John Bauer was trying his hand at creative photography after years of travel shots from faraway places to garner his third place win. He particularly liked the colors that he found in this one. And then his wife Jane liked it as well, so that sealed the deal on choosing this entry.

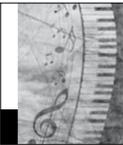
Photo Tip of the Month  
One of the themes I see repeated by our club photographers is that they don't take just one photograph and move on. They take the time to review their shot to see if there's anything they can do to improve their picture.

One of the important things you can consider is shutter speed. When you have a scene like Dave's you definitely need to choose a fast shutter speed to freeze the motion of the water ... what drama he created!

You can freeze a drop of water in the air with a shutter speed of 1/1000 of a second; even a setting of 1/125 gets a crisp shot. Don't despair if you have a basic camera or a smartphone. Look at your settings for a "sports" icon (to capture fast moving objects) or as I just found on my smartphone, there's an option to manually adjust each camera setting, including shutter speed.

Keep in mind that there's a lot to see on our recently updated club website at [www.otowspc.com](http://www.otowspc.com). You can view our members' galleries, along with our past year's photography contest winners, or find updated schedule information.

For more information contact Gary Uhley, our club president, at (352) 854-8536 or [gsuhley@gmail.com](mailto:gsuhley@gmail.com).



**Concert Chorus**

David Wesenberg

Concert Chorus activities are still suspended. We hope to be back for winter 2021! This is a great time to think about singing with the chorus when we can meet and begin preparing a concert. We are all hopeful that will be very soon.

Singing is a lot of fun! Especially with others. As soon as the suspension is over, join us and find out for yourself. Contact May Ann Majni at (954) 557-8176 or [flmam68@aol.com](mailto:flmam68@aol.com) for more information.

**On Top of the World**

**EVENTS/ACTIVITIES**

Events and activities that take place behind the gates of On Top of the World are for residents only and Gateway of Services passholders.



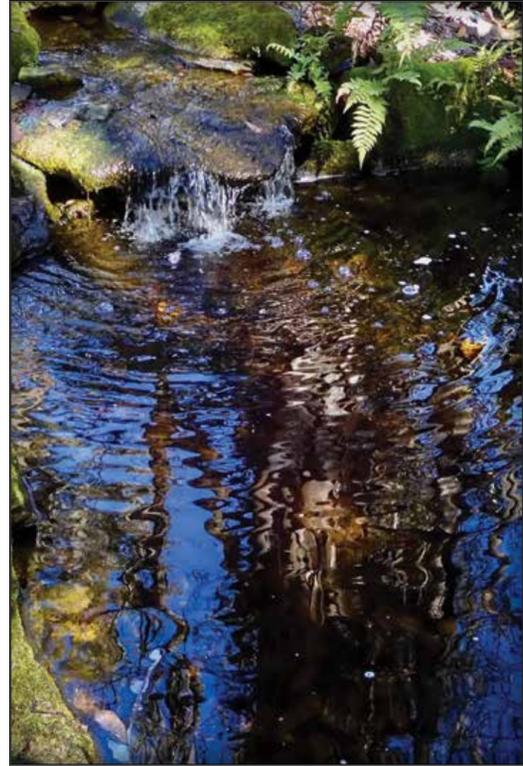
Biltmore Gardens veranda.

Photo by ShutterBug Gail Schultz



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#13808 - 12/20



**View from the Library**

Linda Barilli

Charles G. West is a prolific writer of Western fiction. He researches extensively which makes his books as realistic as possible. In the words of the author, "I want to portray the people and places, weapons and routines as accurately as I possibly can." His books are filled with action, romance and justice, early western style. The characters portrayed are the merchants, trappers, farmers, outlaws and many others that frequented the town's hotel, saloons and general store in the mid 1800s.

Chuck and his wife are residents and are generous donors to our library. His books are found in the Western section in softcover fiction.

"The Flight of the Iguana, A Side-long View of Science and Nature" by David Quammen is a collection of essays pertaining to various animals and critters. Kind of interesting since we might never encounter them in our lifetime. This book can be found in non-fiction labeled 508 QUA.

Quammen also wrote "Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic" which we do not have on our shelves but would be a

great addition to our library, if anyone is willing to donate it, with a note attached addressed to Linda. "Spillover" addresses Ebola, SARS, HIV and many other viruses that have plagued mankind.

If you love happy endings, then you'll love Sara Gruen's "Water for Elephants," a #1 New York Times bestseller. The story begins with Jacob waking up from a dream, swearing that just 10 seconds ago he was 23, when actually he is 90, or 93, one or the other. As it turns out, Jacob is actually a resident in an assisted living facility, visited occasionally by his relatives, but spending most of his time remembering his younger days with the circus.

Much of the material for this story comes from books (which could only be obtained from rare book sellers) about the train circuses during the Depression Era of the 1930s and earlier.

After reading this wonderful story, you will want to visit The Ringling Circus Museum in Sarasota, Florida. "Water for Elephants" can be found in hardcover fiction. Thank you, Diane, for directing me to this book.

Libraries serve a greater purpose which is rarely acknowledged. Start the new year by broadening your horizons. Enter a world full of facts and amazing fiction right here at your own On Top of the World library.



**Poetry**

Linda Toner

**A Partner's Dilemma**

Your birthday comes but once a year,  
And I don't know what to get you dear.  
But I've been hunting far and wide,  
For all the things you said you liked.  
You didn't think that I heard you,  
But I paid attention, just a few times, true.  
So, I am glad to see your delight,  
When you open your gift, I got it right!



**Poetry**

John Kinser Hall

**Wendy**

Wendy as the morning breaks, a smile upon her face.  
This tinder bit of brightness, none could take its place.  
An angel out of slumber, to grace another day.  
Her eyes are now wide open, but few words does she say.  
Then she throws her arms out wide, just for a little love.  
I often find this moment, to think so fondly of.  
The words, "I wov you daddy," echo through the years.  
Now in a distant memory, they still will bring me tears.  
She's daddy's little girl, that's plain for all to see.  
To think that I adopted her, the fact is she chose me.



**Poetry**

Alvin Ross

**A New Dawn**

I woke with a start from the pull of my heart.  
A new day was dawning.  
The sun arose with a glimmer of hope  
A new day was dawning.  
A canvas on high came the blue in the sky.  
A new day was dawning.  
The clouds rolling by in columns of white all seemed to say.  
A new day was dawning.  
The people I passed going to and fro.  
With a smile here to here knew.  
A new day was dawning.  
With children at play without any fear because they knew.  
A new day was dawning.  
At the end of the day.  
The stars appeared in bright array.  
As if to say.  
There is a new day dawning.



**Happy Hookers**

Jan Spielvogel

Happy new year! The Happy Hookers wishes everyone the very best in 2021.

While our group members continue to meet separately and work privately on their projects, we are anxiously waiting for the time that we will be able to bring our group together.

Happy Hookers is open to all residents. We meet year-round on Mondays, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Hobby Building Art Room. There are no dues or agenda and no penalties for missing a meeting, arriving late or leaving early. Life can and does interfere at times, and

we would hate for that to hold you back.

What we do have is a large group of ladies busy with crocheting, knitting, needlepointing, card crafting, embroidering and handcrafting of all kinds. This is a very talented group that's never too busy to help someone with a difficult pattern or stitch. We welcome newcomers with open arms. Attendees should bring whatever they happen to be working on.

If you have any questions, you may call Naomi Berman at (352) 873-4328.

If you have yarn, pattern books, knitting needles, crochet hooks or other crafting tools that you no longer have a use for, donations are always appreciated. Please bring them Mondays during our meeting time or contact Ellyn Weir at (352) 509-4355 to arrange for pickup.

**World News Delivery**

Each household in On Top of the World should receive a complimentary copy of the World News along with the Ocala StarBanner every month.

If you are not receiving home delivery, please email otownews@otowfl.com. Please include your house number and street address along with your neighborhood name.

A copy of the World News may be picked up at all postal centers, Resident Services, New Home Sales

Center, Recreation Center, Arbor Fitness Center, The Club at Candler Hills, The Lodge at Candler Hills, Candler Hills Community Center, Master the Possibilities, The Ranch Fitness Center & Spa, Indigo East Community Center and Indigo East Fitness Center.

Visit [ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala), to view or download a PDF of the World News. Please see page 2 of the World News to view the publication/delivery schedule for 2021.

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Email [otownews@otowfl.com](mailto:otownews@otowfl.com) with your idea(s). If approved, a World News writer will be assigned.

Only good news about the community, a club(s) or a resident(s) will be considered.

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Photo by Steve Warren

**2021 greeting.**



**Karaoke Friends**

**Kathy & Charlie Petrosky**

A new year has dawned and it's time to make good on those resolutions we promised ourselves we'd stick to this year.

Whatever your goals may be - physical, spiritual, financial, singing - we all need a little push sometimes. Wishing is easy. It's the doing part that's often difficult. Let's look to music to get us going.

First resolution is to be more

confident. For inspiration listen to "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell. Most of the time the obstacles we have are the ones we put there ourselves.

Second resolution is to not give up. Listen to Kelly Clarkson's song "Stronger." The lyrics tell us when something hasn't gone our way, learn from it and get back on track.

Third resolution is to be happy. Pharrell Williams has a song just telling us to be happy. Bobby McFerrin has a song telling us "Don't Worry Be Happy."

Fourth resolution is to find people who will be there for you. Glad-

ys Knight inspires us with "That's What Friends Are For." Remember Woody from Toy Story? He sang "You've Got a Friend in Me." I think the Beatles had it right when they sang "I'll Get By with a Little Help from My Friends."

Fifth resolution is to be aware of other's needs. Can you be like Bill Withers telling someone to "Lean on Me?"

While we are away from karaoke, take some time to find songs that will help you make each day your best.

We look forward to meeting again. Until we do, have a song in your heart.

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413884 - 1/21



Photo by Debora Joiner

**Polymer clay necklaces stylized by Artistic Crafts & Gifts virtual vendor Debora Joiner.**



The Artistic Crafts & Gifts group's Tuesday craft show at the Recreation Center Ballroom is from 9 a.m. to noon each week. Our website ArtisticCrafts.org will give you a glimpse of what you'll find each Tuesday and includes the listings of our virtual vendors. Feel free to connect with any crafter throughout the week if you find something you would like to purchase. All resident crafters are welcome to sell virtually on our website.

This month we feature the background of Debora Joiner who began her adult life as a member of the United States Air Force, though long before that she always carried around a sketch pad. While in the military and as a dependent wife, she took her sketching to a new level and started doing commissioned artwork. As life progressed, with children, moving all the time and changing employment, she put her art to the side. Upon her husband's military retirement, they opened and operated a horse farm. When both children left the nest to join the United States Air Force, a new

chapter of her life was just beginning.

In the mountains of North Carolina, she tried to start sketching again but quickly turned to stained glass. Then beaded jewelry started a passion in her that just will not stop.

Polymer clay was a godsend. She incorporates beading, and expanded her products to include wire work, stringing of pendants on multiple mediums, making some interesting beads, working with resins, and more. She is doing

custom orders and would like to get into doing more commissioned work.

Debora started learning about clay and techniques in fun classes at Master the Possibilities. She started doing shows in 2018 as her finished pieces started taking over her home. Trying new techniques, she incorporates several different mediums into one piece and loves expanding her skill set.

Polymer clay is much more than a craft for her, as it continues to be therapeutic; expanding her imagi-

nation, and has given her a new chapter in life. Debora has found a new release for her somewhat unique styles, as she does not just have one.

If you have your own artistic endeavor you wish to sell, please contact us through our website ArtisticCrafts.org where our coordinator Rene can answer all your questions.

[ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala)



The Theatre Group will be re-funding tickets once again for those who purchased them for the cancelled April "Snippets" production. We will be set up on Tuesday, Jan. 12, in the Arbor Conference Center Event Room from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Please bring your purchased tickets for a full refund. This is our final scheduled refund event.

We hope our productions can take place before the end of 2021. At any rate, we will be ready to start casting and rehearsing once the "all clear" is given. For those of you who would like to get involved with the Theatre Group, please stop by and say hello during the refund event on Jan. 12.

Finally, I know there are many of you who are drawn to or curious about stage acting and production. "Life Upon the Wicked Stage" is the name of the Master the Possibilities course that begins in February. This class will meet Tuesdays, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. We will be focused on the sophistication and power of live theatrical performance. Through watching a series of play production videos and actual stage instruction, the student will gain a greater understanding and appreciation of theater - this most unique and delightful form of entertainment that truly celebrates the human experience! For further information on the class and the Theatre Group, please contact Richard at upstage111@yahoo.com.

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Photo by Jim Di Paolo

**Jim Di Paolo with a telescope in his observatory in Pennsylvania.**



Photo by Jim Di Paolo

**Jim Di Paolo playing his keyboard in his studio.**

## Heavenly Music

By Elaine Morrison  
World News Writer

One does not need to be a romantic to know that there is a fine line, actually almost an invisible line, between the moon and the stars and music and love. Think about the hundreds of love songs whose descriptive words of heaven are used to prove the point that in matters of love there is a celestial common denominator.

We're not talking "when the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie" now. Rather more like the lyrics in the popular '50s tune by Les Paul and Mary Ford ... "How High the Moon." Do you recall how it went? "Somewhere there's music,

how near how far," and later on, "somewhere there's heaven, how high the moon."

Well, Candler Hills resident Jim Di Paolo is one fellow who does not have to go very far to be near music. He makes music. And as for the height of the moon, he also teaches the popular astronomy classes at Master the Possibilities and knows exactly how far away that entity is.

Speaking with him recently, I learned that Jim started his music education at the hands, literally, of his father, who taught him to play the accordion when he was five years old. It was while he was in

elementary school, in Pennsylvania, that he was able to learn the piano and began taking lessons. When he reached junior high school, he was fortunate to have a teacher who had been a professional classical pianist, and she introduced him to classical music and all its wonders.

While a teenager, he formed a band and played gigs which provided him with pocket change. To this day, he is in touch with many of his long-ago bandmates. He also learned to play the saxophone so he could play in the marching band which led him to play in the district band and also participate in the district chorus.

Although he was accepted for pre-med education, Jim opted to stick with his music and for almost 30 years he was the national ac-

counts manager for Yamaha instruments.

Ironically, it was while he was at this job that his interest in astronomy surfaced. One of his clients needed speakers for a planetarium in Connecticut. Not knowing anything about the science, Jim was bowled over when he was able to see Saturn through a not very powerful telescope in the museum. From then on, he zeroed in on learning all he could about the galaxy, the planets, the constellations and the universe. Much of this subject matter is what he teaches, and this year he will be adding a new class about the field of spectroscopy. If your curiosity is piqued, sign up for the class.

Music, however, is Jim's number one passion and he has a magnificent Yamaha synthesizer in his home which not only plays piano, but all other instruments as well. "Music," says Jim, "is good for both mind and body."

In addition to teaching five piano classes at Masters of the Possibilities, ranging from beginner to intermediate levels, Jim has performed programs of all Italian songs and a Christmas sing along at The Lodge at Candler Hills. The unfortunate circumstances of our current times have halted these events from being held this year. Jim also manages to find time to give private instruction in his home.

One of the reasons Jim and his wife decided to make On Top of the World their home was the R/C flying field. Not only does Jim know about the heavens, it appears he also loves to fly to them and has made many planes and helicopters which he delights in flying when time permits.

So, while Jim may be able to fly himself to the moon, many of the rest of us will have to content ourselves with getting there by listening to Frank Sinatra sing about it.

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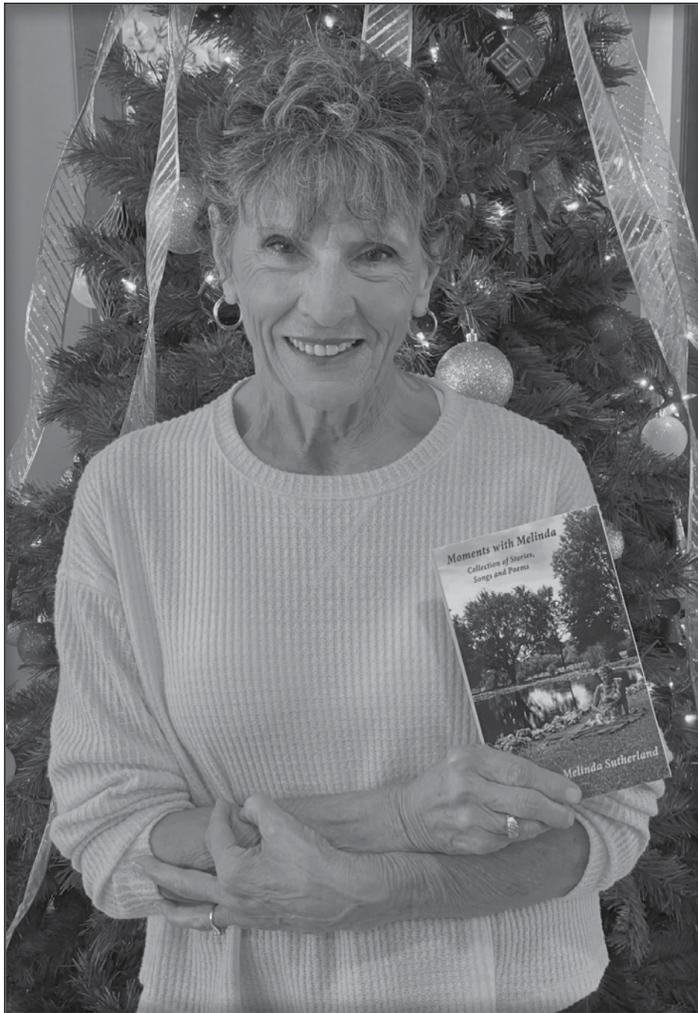


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#13405-8/20



Resident author, Melinda Sutherland.

Photo by Ray Cech

# Teacher, Poet, Triathlete, Author

By Ray Cech  
World News Writer

Teacher, poet, triathlete, author, Melinda Sutherland answers to them all; her latest creative achievement is author of, "Moments with Melinda." This is a charming read that will leave you with a smile, tear and, very often, inspired.

This is Melinda's first pass at writing for publication, and readers will be better off for it.

Melinda Sutherland grew up in a small town in Illinois. There, she spent almost 26 years teaching pre-school children, and 15 years as a fitness coach, helping the local folks and children get in and stay in shape. Believing in what she taught, Melinda tried her hand (body and mind) at competing in triathlons. She grew up believing that if you're going to do something, you have to believe in yourself and keep a positive attitude that shouts out loud, "I can do it." She attacked triathlons, believing that she could — and she did, often winning her class and overall honors.

Melinda's experiences, whether it was competing, teaching, or writing a poem, prompted her to write, "Moments with Melinda." "So many wonderful people and events have influenced my life," Melinda says, "that I just felt I needed to share them." She grew up in a family who enjoyed singing together and telling stories. She kept that tradition alive, singing along and telling sto-

ries with her family. And she always enjoyed sharing stories, poems and songs with her students. Eventually, Melinda produced two children's CDs, "Singing and a Tellin' From the Old Porch Swing," and, "Mosquitoes From a Can." Children love them.

After retiring with her husband John to On Top of the World, Melinda thought it was about time she shared her life's stories. With her "I can do it" spirit, she set a goal of getting them published. To lay the groundwork, she attended writing classes at Master the Possibilities, shared her experiences and goals with other writers and, had the good fortune in meeting author and editor, Lawrence Paz. He helped her move the project forward, as well as editing her manuscripts. Her stories and poems started coming together. Melinda's perseverance and can-do attitude, along with her cheering section of family, friends and trust in God, made it happen.

In "Moments with Melinda," the reader will find inspiration from her stories, poems, positive attitude and moments with God.

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**The New Pretenders**

Nancy Grabowski

The New Pretenders are waiting along with everyone else to make our future plans. We know there will be no show in February, but we long for the time when practice can begin once more. Those practices will help us set a new calendar which will be a happy occurrence!

I admit it's a struggle to deal with these uncertainties but deal we must. Several of the troupe put their thoughts out to tell you more.

Here's what Bob Schmitt has to say, "The New Pretenders would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our audience! Without you, our band and performers would be lost. As you settle into your seat, we peek through the curtains and see you out there. Our adrenaline begins to ramp up ... then, we hit the stage! We observe you sing, clap, tap your feet, even laughing at our comedic routines. You inspire us to give the best performances we can. Your enthusiasm makes the show, and therefore us, the best it/we can be!

One more thing, we have mentioned that tickets purchased do so many good things for the Marion County community. We donate thousands of dollars to local charities that include the Domestic Violence and Abuse Center, Ocala Ritz Veterans Village, and Hospice of Marion County. We reach out to groups within On Top of the World like the Sewing Bees to offer support, too. Also, we volunteer physically at different venues that raise money for organizations like Mind and Motion for Parkinsons and Marion County Heart Walk.

We sincerely thank you and wish



Photo by Lennie Rodoff

Janet Becker, Paula Guildford, Mary Ann Berardi, and Gail Epstein.

you all a happy and healthy 2021. We can't wait to be able to get back on stage and perform for you again. Stay safe!"

Joe Wood added, "Within my nine years of being a New Pretender, I have received much joy from being a part of this group. Over the years I have met some absolutely wonderful, caring people. They set the example for us to follow and hopefully improve upon. Most importantly, I have made lasting friendships. When one is in need, there is a member that is always

willing to step in and help.

I believe that one of my greatest rewards is the troupe's continued commitment to donate to the different local charities. There are many but one in particular is the Domestic Violence and Abuse Center. It's a wonderful feeling to be able to know that I was a small part of being able to raise money to help.

Another reward is when I see the smiling faces and hear the applause. It's just a great feeling and makes it all worthwhile! Finally, if

you would like to experience being a New Pretender, please contact Nancy Grabowski. I assure you the rewards are great. I hope to see your smiling faces next season; you always make me feel happy and welcome!"

Each of The New Pretenders wishes you a safe and healthy 2021!



**Rubber Stamp Greeting Cards**

Linda Lohr

The Rubber Stamp Club hopes you all had a wonderful holiday and are looking forward to a much better, new 2021!

Unfortunately, as we have so many members, we are not yet allowed to meet. Most of us finally finished our Christmas cards and sent them off. Now we have to decide what to make for Christmas 2021! So many choices, not enough time!

Our group is open to all crafters - beginners or those more experienced. One or two people do a presentation each month. The group meets the first and third Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the Hobby Building Event Room.

Anyone can be a presenter - and the cards do not have to be fancy or complicated. Our group is based on friendship, socializing and helping each other.

For information on any class or for general information, contact Kathy at the number/email below. There are basic supplies that are needed, such as a trimmer, glue, scissors, and card stock. Everyone in the group shares their supplies and everyone brings new ideas to the table. You are only limited by your imagination!

If you feel this might be a class you would enjoy, or if you have any questions, please contact Kathy Hoefer at (352) 237-6439 or kathyh508@yahoo.com. We look forward to introducing new people to our fun craft. Until then, keep on stampin'!



Photo by Linda Lohr  
Beverly Spears' swap card.

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## CLASSIFIEDS



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**ESTATE/TAG SALE ADS:** There is no charge to residents, however, residents must register their estate/tag sale with Resident Services at Friendship Commons. Visit [ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala) and click on "Resident Info" to download the appropriate form for your community and submit it to Resident Services by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

**SERVICE ADS:** Will be accepted from residents and non-residents and may be emailed to otownnews@otowfl.com. For advertising rates, visit [ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala) and click on "Advertising Rates."

**AD DEADLINE:** Noon on the 12th of the month. If the deadline falls on a weekend, then it's noon on the Friday before. For more information, call (352) 387-7466, email [otownnews@otowfl.com](mailto:otownnews@otowfl.com) or visit [ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala](http://ontopoftheworldnews.com/ocala)

*The publisher reserves the right to reject any ad which, in his judgment, would not be in the best interest of the residents of On Top of the World Communities.*

## For Sale

**Appliance:** Nostalgia Bacon Express, \$25. (989) 745-3567.

**Electronics:** 32" Samsung flat screen TV, \$50. (352) 854-5713.

**Furniture:** Solid maple artisan crafted dining table with painted legs and 6 chairs, \$500. (304) 893-1261.

**Furniture:** Wood end tables (2) with glass inserts, \$50. Table lamps (2), brass with dark green trim, \$50. (352) 854-5713.

**Golf Accessories:** New Balance golf shoes, 10-1/2 D, \$50. (352) 854-5713.

**Miniature Dollhouses:** 1/2" and 1" scale quality. Construction; no kit, from \$275. (352) 861-9197.

**Misc. Item:** Bernina 790 Plus sewing, quilting machine with many accessories. (352) 690-7559.

**Misc. Item:** Oreck upright vacuum cleaner with attachments, \$50. (352) 854-5713.

**Misc. Items:** 45 RPM records (100), \$1 each. Several LPs, \$5 each. Elvis Presley scrapbook, \$25. (352) 989-3162.

**Misc. Items:** No. 1 refrigerator water filter for Whirlpool, Maytag, Amana, Jenn-Air, KitchenAid, \$100 for 3-pack. (352) 897-4762.

**Misc. Items:** Tamrac Velocity sling small bag holds camera with lens attached and one extra lens, \$10. Tamrac Velocity sling large bag holds camera with lens and two extra lenses, \$15. (352) 433-0007.

**Musical Instrument:** Slingerland Classic 1962 drum set complete with all original snare, BD, floor TT, side TT, hardware and cymbals. (352) 361-6504.

**Sports Equipment:** 26" Equator Magna 18-speed bicycle, \$40. 26" Kulana/Makana women's cruiser bicycle, \$95. (989) 745-3567.

**Tools:** Craftsman 10" compound miter saw with stand and two extra-fine blades, \$85. (352) 433-0007.

## Tag Sales

**Friday, Jan. 8 & Saturday, Jan. 9:** 8886-A SW 95th Street (Friendship Village), 8:30 a.m. to noon.

**Saturday, Jan. 9:** 9237-A/B SW 83rd Avenue (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. • 9367-B SW 83rd Avenue (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. • 9237-E SW 83rd Avenue (Friendship Colony), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 10:** 9237-A/B/E SW 83rd Avenue (Friendship Colony), noon to 4 p.m. • 9367-B SW 83rd Avenue (Friendship Colony), noon to 4 p.m.

**Friday, Jan. 15 & Saturday, Jan. 16:** 8620-A SW 94th Street (Friendship Village), 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. • 9133 SW 91st Court Road (Renaissance Park), 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 17:** 9133 SW 91st Court Road (Renaissance Park), noon to 4 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 30:** 9837 SW 99th Loop (Crescent Ridge), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 31:** 9837 SW 99th Loop (Crescent Ridge), noon to 4 p.m.

## Services

**3T's Lawn Care:** Lawn mowing schedules, hedges, mulch, fall & spring clean-ups, crepe myrtle trimming, aeration, dethatching. (352) 361-1555.

**4 My Love of Paws:** Private or group obedience dog training and pet sitting. Nancy Courtney (757) 277-1114 (resident).

**Alterations by Nancy:** Reasonable rates, experienced. (484) 716-0270 (resident).

**Andy Dahms Interior Painting:** Your local professional painting contractor. Turn your place into a showpiece. Quality Sherwin-Williams products. References available. Free estimates. Call or email at (941) 730-1381 or [andygoodeats1@gmail.com](mailto:andygoodeats1@gmail.com).

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**Computer Help:** Arthur Burditt, (352) 875-7878. House calls, \$40/hour. Tutoring, setups, installations, Windows upgrades, PC cleanups, security software, internet connections, email access, printers, wireless devices.

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**Geller Lawn:** Mowing, irrigation, bushes, mulch & much more! Starting at \$50 per month (no contracts). Insured. (352) 390-7454.

**Handyman:** Plumbing, electrical, general maintenance repairs, handicap grab bars, screens, etc. No job too small. Service you can count on. Steve Scott (resident), Steve the Handyman LLC, (517) 262-7971 (October through March).

**Handyman:** Repairing sliding glass door rollers/tracks, sliding garage screen doors, window balances, sliding shower doors/guides, doors & locksets, door seals. Installing handicap grab bars. One call does it all! Steve, S&T Quality Services (352) 207-8682.

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**Dog Sitter:** Dachshund loving pet sitter(s) in your home. Two senior doxies looking for accommodation, spoiling and affection while owners are away. Terms negotiable. (352) 355-3331.

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**HAM Radio Operators:** Support the Community Emergency Response Team in the event of a disaster. Please email [sue.grib@yahoo.com](mailto:sue.grib@yahoo.com).

**Pet Foster Parents:** Temporarily open your home to a pet in need. Call S.P.C.A. of Marion County at (352) 362-0985.

**Volunteers:** Florida Center for the Blind (Ocala) is looking to fill board member positions. A professional background is preferred (not required) in marketing, writing, fundraising, grant-writing, law, finance/accounting, or education. Anissa Pieriboni (352) 873-4700.

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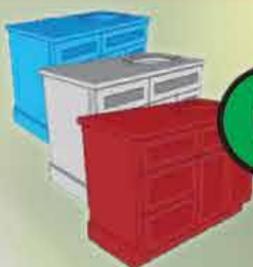
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